



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-151
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'Last Chance' Seen for Mercosur Customs Accord

PY0408162894 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in
Portuguese 1304 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Aug (AE)—Without the participation of Brazilian Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero, who will arrive in Buenos Aires this afternoon, the economy and foreign ministers of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries will have their last chance today to reach an agreement that

will establish customs unity in the region. As of dawn today [4 August], the problem of the list of exceptions of Uruguay, which demands a larger number of exceptions than the other trade partners, was not solved. "The situation is delicate," said Guillermo Valles, coordinator of the Uruguay Common Market Group, last night. Meanwhile, Paraguayan Integration Minister Hugo Saguier Caballero attempted to minimize the problem by saying that "the presidential summit scheduled for 5 August is not threatened."

Cuba**Radio Reports Boat Hijacking, Passengers' Remarks**

FL0408131794 Havana Radic Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] A passenger boat was hijacked from Havana Bay by 15 armed individuals who forcefully diverted the vessel due north. A total of 80 people, including 10 children, were on board the motorboat, which was diverted from its normal route at about 1200 [1600 GMT] on 3 August after sailing from Casablanca to the dock on the other side of the bay. Seven of the passengers jumped overboard shortly after the hijackers brandished a revolver, a pistol, a hand grenade, and a machete to achieve their purposes.

The motorboat La Coubre was accompanied during part of its journey by coast guard and civilian ships, which did not try to intercept it to avoid greater consequences. According to information, the hijacked motorboat was 28 miles north of Havana by nightfall.

Passengers who jumped overboard reported that several of the children traveling on the motorboat turned due north are infants held in their mothers' arms. The La Coubre motorboat, which routinely covers the route between Casablanca and Havana Vieja, is approximately 16 meters long and has a maximum speed of 8 knots.

The Cuban side has advised the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

The seven youths who jumped overboard before the La Coubre motorboat left Havana Bay described the action as an act of vulgar terrorism and maritime piracy. Contacted by GRANMA reporter Pedro de la Oz, just hours after living through such a dramatic experience, they denounced the criminal nature of the act.

Juan Alberto Rodriguez Diaz, a 31 year-old Santiago resident, founded his opinion on the way that the hijackers intimidated the more than 80 passengers on board. He said: They do not think about the women and the children or the newborns.

Another Santiago resident, Joel Illas Pena, an agricultural worker in San Luis Municipality, pointed out that they shield themselves behind innocent people to reach the United States.

With the experience of his profession, crew member of the Mambisa motorboat, Onelio Ramon Cabral, an Alamar resident, described the criminal irresponsibility of the delinquents: They know that the vessel is not prepared for long journeys; they were rude and abusive with the women. When the women asked them not to continue with their plans and that they be allowed to disembark, one of the hijackers said that if they wanted to abandon ship all they had to do was jump overboard.

Carlos Alberto Martinez, a 23-year-old resident employed at the Almendares Store, spoke of how one of the antisocials, with a bayonet in hand, would use obscene language during the intimidating act. There was another 10-year-old child who was traveling alone who began to cry, which did not seem to affect the hijackers at all. When thinking about the motivations of the pirates, he added: In our country, there are shortages of food, medicine, and many other things. We know that the blockade is the main cause of this situation, and we are struggling to overcome it. Sincerely, I do not see the need of abandoning the place where I was born.

Yamile Labrada Guerra, a 17-year-old adolescent, unable to recover from the emotional shock, kept repeating over and over: It is a cruel act, very cruel.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA, Onelio Ramon Cabrales, one of the escapees and worker at the Mambisa Navigation Enterprise, narrated how he was surprised by the presence of an individual armed with a revolver who ordered the passengers to get to the floor.

Passengers Decry 'Terrorist' Hijacking

PA0408152094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0951 GMT 4 Aug 94

[By Javier Rodriguez]

[Text] Havana, 4 Aug (PL)—Those passengers of a boat hijacked in this capital yesterday who were able to escape by jumping off the boat into Havana Bay have described the action by a group of armed individuals as a terrorist and cowardly act.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA, some of the people who were able to escape from the boat "La Coubre," which was diverted from its normal route between the two sides of Havana Bay, talked about the great danger in which the hijackers placed dozens of travelers, including numerous women and children.

Seven of the passengers who opposed the intimidating actions of the hijackers who were taking the boat to the United States were able to swim until being rescued by boats from the Cuban Border Guard and from the Transportation Ministry, which remained at a distance to assist the hijack victims.

The passenger boat left Casablanca Wharf at noon yesterday with approximately 80 to 90 passengers, and according to available reports, it was violently overrun by a group of some 12 and 15 people.

According to Juan Gualberto Rodriguez Diaz and Joel Illas Pena, residents of the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba, the hijackers ignored protests and even the cries of women and children who asked them to return and refused to go to the United States.

I do not understand those people, and I do not want to know anything about them; I do not even want them near me, Rodriguez said. In addition, Illas said they were

abusing the women, mistreating them and telling them that if they wanted to stay they would have to jump into the water.

Many more people would have jumped into the water, but they were afraid. They were even afraid of being shot in the back, Illas said.

Onelio Ramon Cabrales Martin, crew member of the Mambisa Navigation Firm, another passenger who escaped from "La Coubre," described the hijackers' actions as cowardly; he said the hijackers were "capable of doing anything to innocent people, including babies who were on board in their mother's arms."

Cabrales said the group of hijackers threw into the water the bicycles of passengers, despite the protests of the owners, and ignored the demands of the majority, who opposed their actions.

"If they think they will be able to defeat the revolution by using such maneuvers, they are mistaken. They are misfits who will not find the paradise they dream of," he added.

Cabrales said the weapons they carried included a pistol, a gun, a grenade, a bayonet, and machetes, which they used to threaten the passengers. He added that they also took some containers with fuel aboard to use along the way.

With the experience he has earned from his work as crew member of the Cuban vessel "Victoria de Giron," Cabrales stressed the risk to the lives of the passengers involved in using a boat designed only for short trips on such a long journey.

The U.S. Government encourages them to do this by offering them all sorts of rewards to facilitate the realization of this sort of folly, he emphasized.

A youth who recently earned a degree in telecommunications engineering, Carel Bouza Fernandez—who also escaped from the vessel—confirmed what the others said about the hijackers' threats to women and children.

To me, it is a terrorist act, he stressed. I cannot see any reason to leave my country and abandon my family and my loved ones. I am and always will support the revolution, he added.

Bouza recalled that while the U.S. Special Interests Section in Cuba denies visas to Cuban applicants, the United States welcomes as heroes those people who carry out crimes such as today's.

When I jumped into the water, I thought: If I die, that is okay, but if I survive, I will stay in the country in which I was born. I live, and want to continue living.

Carlos Alberto Martinez, a Havana resident and another one of the passengers who jumped into the water with Yamile Guerra—17 years old and a cousin of Guerra's wife—expressed anger toward the hijackers in light of the desperate calls by women and children, whom they answered with obscenities.

We all know that there are needs in our country. People are aware of this, but they face them and continue getting by. Those, however, who do things of this sort do not have any feelings and do not even respect the lives of newborns, he noted.

Young Yamile gave her opinion with a short and simple phrase: What they did was very cruel.

U.S. Coast Guard Reportedly Welcomes Hijackers

FL0408211894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2000 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] We have a last-minute report, which was sent to the Convention Palace. It is a PRENSA LATINA dispatch. Allow me to read the text for all Cubans:

Today—I repeat: today, 4 August—on the open sea, the U.S. Coast Guard welcomed the hijackers of a Cuban boat that yesterday was forcibly seized, its crew members compelled toward the U.S. coast with dozens of hostages aboard. Cuban units, including a rescue team, picked up 76 of the boat hijacking victims and began to transfer them to this capital once the U.S. Coast Guard operation had concluded.

Seven people had managed yesterday to escape from the hijackers by jumping into the sea before the boat left Havana Bay. According to authorities consulted by PRENSA LATINA, the U.S. Coast Guard boats that picked up the perpetrators of this action, which has been called an act of piracy, were the NANTUCKET and the POINT BAKER, which took more than 100 people aboard. Some of those people were involved in the plot to carry out the hijacking and others were compelled to board the U.S. Coast Guard boats after finding themselves involuntarily involved in the dangerous action.

The hijacked boat lacks the characteristics needed to travel on the open sea because it is a transport boat meant to carry passengers within Havana Bay and in calm waters. Under other sea conditions, the boat might have capsized.

The fact that they carried weapons, including grenades, plus their clear intention to use these weapons inside a boat carrying children and old people proves the criminality and lack of scruples of those who perpetrated the hijacking. They are constantly encouraged to carry out these actions by U.S. authorities, which allows them to enjoy absolute impunity.

They do not think about the women, children, or newborn babies, said Juan Gualberto Rodriguez Diaz, 31 years old, who managed to escape yesterday by jumping into the water shortly after the act was carried out. He called the action the most brutal, irresponsible act of piracy.

The rescue operation to return the group of 76 people who decided to return to the country, was carried out by Cuban Border Guard Troops and ended at approximately 1100. The group involves 34 men, 28 women, and 14 children. The group is being taken care of by a

medical team sent by sea to the site. They are distributing food to the kidnapped people and are attending to one of them who suffers hypoglycemia.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Acceptance of Hijackers

PA0408160994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
1341 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 4 Aug (PL)—Vicious armed men, for the second time, have hijacked a boat full of passengers, endangering their lives by diverting it to the United States, where they have been received with open arms, the official newspaper GRANMA reported here today.

The newspaper indicated that the first hijackers (of a boat sailing between Havana and the offshore town of Regla) have already been received by the U.S. authorities, while the type of tribute being paid to this new group of adventurers is currently unknown.

Likewise, it noted that if they had accomplished their objectives, this would have been the fate of those who in 1992 brutally murdered four young men in Tarara on the outskirts of the capital, and they would have joined Orlando Bosh's anti-Cuban animals among cheers and applause.

Bosh, the terrorist, a prosperous and protected resident of Miami, was the confessed perpetrator of the Barbados crime in which 73 people were killed after he blew up a Cubana de Aviacion plane, GRANMA stated.

Incidents such as this prove two things: on one hand, the contemptuous and cynical policy of a superpower, which considers itself the center of the modern world; and on the other hand, a small, sincere, and worthy country trying to become a model of sovereignty and independence amid unimaginable pressures, the newspaper added.

The Cuban people, it states, are heroic and stoic. The U.S. Government is disgraceful and foolish. There cannot be any glory for a country, whose population is 23 times larger than the victimized nation, when it is unable to force the smaller nation to yield a single time, not even by chance. It is just more foolishness, the editorial stated.

The newspaper noted that, recently, following the unfortunate incident of the stolen tugboat, the confessed perpetrators of the illegal departures shamelessly asked the Cuban authorities for "the suspension of violence against its citizens."

This is an unfounded, slanderous, and deceitful accusation based on a reality they themselves have fabricated, the newspaper states. It adds that today the Cuban Government could legitimately ask them for the suspension of the miserable protection for those who violently attack our citizens.

After noting that the U.S. Senate asked President William Clinton to seek the adoption of a resolution at the UN Security Council to condemn Cuba for the

accident, GRANMA stated that the first thing he would have to ask is for the fulfillment of the UN agreements calling for a definitive suspension of the blockade, which has been imposed on Havana for more than three decades and which is responsible for the critical situation facing the country.

GRANMA pointed out that this situation forces some of its citizens to want to emigrate for family, private, economic, or adventurous reasons.

Washington lacks the morals to condemn alleged aggressive incidents in other countries because its record in this field is too filthy, GRANMA stated. It cited the examples of the massacre of the Davidian sect in Waco, the beating up of black citizens in Los Angeles, and the invasions of Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989).

The actions and the attitudes are well defined on each side. Cuba is proud of its history and its present. They can fool the world about Cuba's reality, but they cannot fool themselves, the newspaper stated.

"Our internal matters are sovereign. We clearly state that an intervention would cost them dearly. It will also cost those who in our own land allow themselves to be fooled by Yankee pharisaism," the editorial concludes.

Dominican Party Asks Balaguer To Reduce Term

PA0408232594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
2104 GMT 4 Aug 94

["Dominican Situation: Liberals Ask Balaguer To Reduce His Presidential Period By Two Years"—PRENSA LATINA headline]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 4 Aug (PL)—Spokesmen for the Dominican opposition Liberation Party [PLD] asked President Joaquin Balaguer today to reduce his new presidential term from four to two years.

PLD sources have reported Balaguer said he agrees with the request but said it is necessary to hear the opinion of the leadership of the governing Social Christian Reformist Party, which the octogenarian statesman heads.

This is the main public result of a crucial meeting between the PLD and Balaguer, who requires the support of liberal congressmen to be sworn in on 16 August for his 7th presidential term.

Balaguer, supported by the Army and the church, is facing a general rejection from the rest of the country's political parties, which view the 16 May elections as fraudulent. International observers have also questioned the elections.

The PLD's request for a reduction in the presidential term, which would be followed by a provisional government and a constituent assembly, is almost identical to a proposal made earlier by Balaguer himself to counter protests.

XINHUA, PRENSA LATINA To Strengthen Ties

PA0408181394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
1526 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 2 Aug (PL)—A delegation from China's XINHUA News Agency today met with PRENSA LATINA's president with the goal of strengthening the information and technological cooperation that both agencies have maintained for some 35 years.

The members of the delegation, headed by XINHUA Vice President Pang Biangan, arrived in Havana on 1 August for a five-day visit, during which they will tour areas of economic, political, and social interest in Havana and other regions.

The visit is designed to strengthen ties between China and Cuba, and between the Chinese and Latin American peoples. Pang said in a statement to PRENSA LATINA during his meeting with the agency's President Pedro Margolles Villanueva.

He added that the visit to Havana will contribute to the development of both news agencies, strengthening bilateral cooperation [words indistinct] including tourist projects and research for oil exploitation in Cuba.

XINHUA has an agreement with PRENSA LATINA on the exchange of information and technological cooperation, which will be strengthened, according to Pang, who in 1959 was appointed the agency's first correspondent in Havana.

Pang, who as a reporter covered the main developments in Cuba during the 1960's, was accompanied by Sun Baochuan, director of the [words indistinct] department.

Raul Castro Urges Unity at National Assembly

PA0408133894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish
0048 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 3 Aug (PL)—Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, today appealed to the nation to combat with unity, energy, and creativity the difficulties it is experiencing, while putting aside excuses and self-interests.

During his participating at the National Assembly's early evening session of the third regular period, Raul Castro evaluated the three meetings recently held in the eastern, central, and western parts of the island to study the current problems and to find solutions.

Castro, also a deputy, asked all of the nation's forces and sectors to work together and in harmony in implementing the current main strategy; sugar production aside, the strategy is to guarantee food for the people.

"Yesterday, we said beans were as valuable as cannons," and today we confirm "beans are worth more than cannons," he noted. Immediately after this, he warned

the revolution's enemies not to make any miscalculations, because "we have more than enough cannons and other things to defend this land."

Raul Castro urged the separation of the special period and the U.S. economic blockade, which he called brutal and bloody, from the subjective causes (the responsibilities of the Cubans themselves) which can help ease the current national situation and prevent deficiencies that can be resolved under the current circumstances.

While he urged the people not to sit back, he added that lies should be shattered no matter how insignificant and inconsistent they may be, and he stressed the need to stave off a lack of criticism as well as hypercriticism.

He appeared to encourage revolutionaries to endorse the open disclosure of standards and contradictions as a means to benefit the nation.

A collective decision is and always will be much wiser than a personal decision, he stressed. He immediately added that it is in meetings—not in the hallways—where one should speak "up front, face to face."

He insisted on the urgent need to work systematically with decisiveness, courage, and efficiency, and he stressed the need to encourage boldness, the spirit of struggle, and creativity without fear of error, as long as these things respond to the basic precepts of the nation's plans.

Whoever does not fulfill the demands of the Cuban nation or fails to act in keeping with these requirements should be replaced immediately, he declared. This was in reference to the nation's leaders, who, in his opinion, should have an iron will, be unpretentious, have the capacity to anticipate, and remain loyal with unlimited principles.

Execution Carried Out in 'Route 84' Case

FL0408175994 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The People's Supreme Court has denied an appeal presented by the defense in Case 578 of 1993, better known as the Case of Route 84, where Felix Eduardo Oviedo Aguilera, the main suspect in the murder of a youth, was sentenced to death. The Council of State did not consider it appropriate to commute the death sentence. The sentence has already been executed.

As many may remember, the trial established that the crimes of murder, theft with violence on people, and illegal possession of weapons had been committed. The exceptional requirements that the law demands to apply extreme measures were established by the dangerous nature of the murderer, the way in which he executed the crime, and the repercussions the act had on our society. Criminal actions of this nature will not remain without being exemplarily sanctioned by our society.

Roundup of Economic Developments

FL0208110294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored from Havana radio and television sources in Spanish through 2 August:

Guantanamo Province increased its mercantile production during the first semester by almost 3 million pesos, as compared with the same period last year. A total of 28 of the 48 monitored enterprises report an increase, while 18 report even higher levels over the projected results for this period. The group of enterprises include a local jam factory, the province's food enterprise, and the Ivan Rodriguez livestock farm. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 29 Jul 94)

Repairs at several Havana Province sugar mills continue in preparation for the next harvest. The most important repairs will be made at the Camilo Cienfuegos mill, with the reconstruction of the energy system and the installation of a turbine generator. The Santa Cruz del Norte mill will have to make repairs while fulfilling its white sugar plan. Other repairs will be made at the Boris Luis Santacoloma mill, in Madruga, where the bagasse feeders will undergo reconstruction. Repairs at the Sandino mill, in Mariel, include installing a tandem system and a turbine generator. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 29 Jul 94)

A total of 287 houses were built in Holguin's agrarian sector during the first semester to improve the workers' living conditions, with 503 more houses in various stages of development. This means that more than 50 percent of the 1994 goal of 1,200 houses has almost been met. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 29 Jul 94)

The Eastern Army has increased its food production to achieve self-sufficiency and to support the population's food supply. The Eastern Army can produce 50,000 tons of food this year, almost twice what it produced in 1993. To achieve this goal, the armed corps—which includes the eastern provinces and Camaguey—has five enterprises, six agrarian and livestock units, and 72 assorted crop farms. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 31 Jul 94)

According to Fishing Industry Minister Jorge Fernandez-Cuervo, after Australia, Cuba is the second largest producer in the world of lobster, earning \$120 million from this activity. According to a 30 July report datelined Havana, Cuba receives an average of \$15,000 for each ton of lobster. Production in 1994 has been 400 tons greater than figures registered for 1993. (Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1340 GMT 30 Jul 94)

Cuban Tourism Minister Osmany Cienfuegos Gorriaran has said that 350,000 tourists visited Cuba in the first half of 1994, a 21 percent increase over the same period in 1993, according to a 1 August report datelined

Havana. Cienfuegos added that the influx of tourists is coming along as expected and may total 700,000 tourists by year-end. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2034 GMT 1 Aug 94)

Haiti**UN Sources: Venezuelan Plan Temporarily 'Ruled Out'**

FL0408215994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] UN diplomatic sources reported on 3 August that Venezuela's proposal to send negotiations to Haiti has been temporarily ruled out. The sources said that the main obstacles include strong opposition in Argentina, which supported the five Latin American countries' initiative, and reservations expressed by Mexico and Brazil.

[Signal FM adds during the same newscast: "Mexico is apparently unaware of the Latin American peace initiative on Haiti. AHP has learned from a source close to the Mexican Embassy in Port-au-Prince that Mexico is unaware of the Latin American initiative aimed at regenerating negotiations with the Haitian military in an effort to get them to give up power. The source said that the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat had not been informed of this proposal. Foreign news agencies are reporting that Venezuela wants the chancellors of several countries in the hemisphere to go to Port-au-Prince immediately to try to persuade the military to give up power so that a military invasion of Haiti can be avoided. General Cedras and the military command have agreed to receive the mediation mission in Port-au-Prince."]

Deputies Discuss, Reject UN Resolution

FL0408223194 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Passage in quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpts] On 3 August, deputies met for the second consecutive day to discuss UN Resolution 940. Frantz Robert Monde, president of the lower chamber, has declared the Haitian Parliament the mecca of resistance to invasion and has urged deputies to adopt a resolution condemning the UN resolution authorizing the use of force as a means to end the Haitian crisis:

[Begin Monde recording] "You cannot hide your navel in the bath." When the Marines walk upon national soil, they will not see on my forehead the letter P—meaning putschist—nor will they see on colleague Vital's forehead the letter L—meaning lavalassian. We will all be kicked in the ass. As responsible parliamentarians, it is no longer a question of considering the international community's options or reactions. We must search for an open door to dialogue and fearlessly reject intervention. We also must carry out at least a symbolic deed. May two

or three of us decide to sit in Parliament during the invasion! May this Parliament risk being bombed on behalf of democracy, as was the case for the Russian parliament and Boris Yeltsin! We must carry out at least a symbolic deed and declare Parliament the mecca of national resistance. [end recording]

Various speakers expressed their bitterness over this resolution. For example, Socialist Bloc President Deputy Duly Brutus shares this view but dismisses the resolution declaring the Haitian Parliament the mecca of resistance as unnecessary. [passage omitted]

Deputy Joseph Lambert rejected the resolution, asserting that no Haitian parliamentary bloc can accept a UN Security Council decision that prescribes a military solution to the Haitian crisis. Deputy Lambert pointed out that the question is whether the Socialist Bloc is for or against the foreign invasion plan. [passage omitted]

Deputy Edmond Mirolid wrote *Monde* to explain that the Social Democratic Parliamentary Bloc would not participate in the session as long as the contested 18 January deputies participated. [passage omitted]

Anyway, the quorum was noted: There were about 41 deputies.

[Signal FM adds during the same newscast: "Deputies of the 45th legislature who were elected on the basis of direct universal suffrage during the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections say they have noted with astonishment the UN Security Council's approval of a resolution authorizing a multinational military force to intervene in Haiti. The deputies want to draw the attention of the UN secretary general and the Security Council president to the fact that such an act blatantly violates the Haitian Constitution and denies the Haitian Parliament the right to joint guardianship of national sovereignty with the executive power. These deputies urge the United Nations to respect Haitian public law, especially the Constitution, and to support the Haitian people in the peaceful search for democracy through dialogue and concerted action."]

Ministry Holds Aristide Responsible for Intervention

PA0508035594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0254 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 4 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Justice Ministry of the de facto Haitian government held constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide responsible today for any eventual military invasion of Haiti.

The ministry stated this evening "public procedures will be initiated against Aristide and Haiti's representative at the United Nations, Fritz Longchamps." The ministry accused both of "having written to the UN Security Council to request a military intervention."

The ministry issued a communique reporting penalties will come down "on the authors, coauthors, and accomplices of these crimes."

The Haitian Constitution views the [word indistinct] of foreign military forces to the country as treason.

The Justice Ministry condemned a few days ago, without further explanation, those who have "publicly encouraged sedition and uprisings and have requested in a letter a foreign intervention."

Haiti's legislative chambers discussed a proposal yesterday condemning Aristide as the person responsible for an eventual foreign military intervention on the island. The proposal was not approved for lack of agreement.

Officials of the constitutional government believe the charges against Aristide and Longchamps could be a first step in justifying actions against cadres that support Haiti's legal president.

Cedras Interviewed on Invasion Threat

AU0408110194 Hamburg STERN in German 4 Aug 94
pp 32-35

[Report on interview with General Raoul Cedras by Niklas Frank and Perry Kretz in Port-au-Prince; date not given: "Breakfast With a Dictator"]

[Text] Haiti's Obersalzberg [Hitler's holiday resort] is located high above Port-au-Prince in Peggyville. Behind the Canadian Embassy, we follow the road up on the right-hand side, then, on the steepest stretch, on the left-hand side, we drive into the open gateway, and have to brake sharply. Three civilian black guards sit here playing cards. No sealed-off areas, no guard dogs, no armed checkpoints. This would be just the right thing for a half-resolved commando venture.

This is the private home of "petit Hitler", as his opponents call him sarcastically, General Raoul Cedras and his wife Jacqueline and three children, not a simple home, but furnished expensively in good taste, and with first-class Haitian works of art on the walls.

Breakfast with Cedras—slices of melon and croissants, surrounded by a nice and happy family. Father Raoul wears blue jeans and a polo shirt, and one does not see that since President Aristide's expulsion on 30 September 1991, he has been chiefly responsible for rape, torture, and murder, as well as for the food situation, which is becoming increasingly disastrous for the 7 million Haitians who are suffering from the embargo imposed by the United Nations.

Butter, excellent marmalade, silverware, china, and the comprehension of Cedras' 16-year-old son David, who is chewing sulkily and grumbles with a look at the STERN people: "Then they are going to write that the Cedras family is gourmandizing lightheartedly, whereas the people in the slums are starving."

The general does not seem to worry. Lovingly, he strokes his son's hair, laughs, and tells us with a voice that could have the potential of a heroic tenor: "Oliver is not stupid. He is clever. The other day, he even refused to

shake hands with the ambassadors of the Organization of American States because they are involved in the embargo."

Cedras is gesturing so vividly to the incredibly beautiful bay of Port-au-Prince that one would not be surprised to see Admiral Nelson arrive with his fleet under white sails to carry out a military order. However, behind the horizon, approximately 3,000 U.S. Marines are sweating on 15 warships and are waiting for an operational order of their hesitant president, who since last Sunday [31 July] has even had the UN Security Council's permission for an invasion.

All that is far away up here. "It is my family who really allows me to relax," the general says between two mouthfuls of melon.

His favorite is nine-year old Christian, with whom he was romping around before breakfast—a really very nice father, who is also an amazing example of a limited realization of reality.

Cedras says: "Democracy is the most important thing for our country. We need democracy."

Then the general should also favor Aristide's return to his presidential office, shouldn't he?

"Does he deserve it?" He laughs derisively. "Aristide is no problem for Haiti's democracy."

What is the problem?

"Haiti," he says, looking at us with his dark brown military eyes. "Haiti needs strong institutions to build democracy, because democracy is a process that must be backed."

The only strong institution in Haiti is the Army.

"Exactly," says Cedras, sipping his fruit juice, "that is why Aristide can return at any time."

He does not like the questions. He knows his answers, which disclose nothing about his real intentions—the most powerful man in Haiti, who commands a force of 70,000 killers, the so-called Attaches.

He says that, "for the time being, we are waiting for the invasion."

Again he looks at the sea, without any nervousness. An army that has decided not to fight against a much stronger invader is becoming amazingly self-confident; above all, its commanding general, whom President Aristide at his time appointed for this highest post. Is he not afraid at all of the imminent invasion?

"No," he says, laughing. "Of course, the embargo is giving the Army trouble." He thereby hints, without saying so, that no one can force him to his knees, and even less into exile.

Nothing in the vast house indicates that there are escape plans. No boxes, no wardrobe trunk. Only some relatives

have also moved into the house. "The crisis has made us move a bit closer together," says Jacqueline Cedras.

After breakfast, the general shows his favorite picture. It is hidden on the wall behind a gum tree—huts and boats, fishermen, nets, and a beach under a glowing sun. "I like it because it has a different glow at every hour of the day."

The dictator continues to chat: "I am a computer freak." Through the half-open door, we see a complete setup with very fine hardware in his study. He does not let us into the room. Perhaps there is only the Tetris game on the screen. What else should he do while waiting for an invasion? That is also why he misses the meeting at Army Headquarters, which is scheduled for 1000 today, by two hours. There is nothing to do.

However, since the overthrow of Aristide, Cedras has missed everything. There is no social welfare program for the people in the slums. He failed to form a coalition government that the United States could have found acceptable. He failed to make a diplomatically successful attempt to find allies in the Third World. The Army has become immobile with bad weapons. However, he shows the most natural cheerfulness in his own house.

Then a crack appears in the beautiful facade. The general, who had withdrawn to change into his uniform, suddenly jumps down the stairs, gives his visitors a few sheets of paper, and says, highly embarrassed: "This is my curriculum vitae."

At this moment, we suddenly feel it—his desperate longing for recognition, which has probably also opened the door for us to his private life.

The general hurries upstairs again, as if caught red-handed, and returns after a while in the well-known light brown uniform with the three steel stars on each shoulder.

A general without fortune, who according to his curriculum was mostly only a teacher, director of the military academy, trainer, swimming trainer, author of a handbook on soccer training and on 60-millimeter guns. "Of course, I know Machiavelli and the book *On War* by Clausewitz," he says. However, he did not act by their rules. Cedras missed his chances.

At the front door, he takes leave of his wife, Jacqueline. "He gets a kiss every morning," she says. The kiss is touching. The two have loved each other for 25 years and have been married for 19 years. "He taught me to lead an orderly life," she says. "When I first met him I found him incredibly intelligent and mature."

The general bends down to his daughter and kisses her, too. "Where is Christian?" he asks and is disappointed because he cannot say goodbye to his darling.

But Christian has hidden in the Toyota Land Cruiser that will take Cedras to the headquarters. Two soldiers with helmets, the driver, and an adjutant sit in the car.

Cedras discovers his son, a cheerful tug-of-war begins, he tickles the little boy out of the Toyota, which has the license plate D-6863, waves to his family with his stiff cap, and leaves.

His wife Jacqueline looks after him and says in an unself-conscious way: "I love every minute with him. One never knows whether it will also be so tomorrow." She does not fear for his life. However, the United States' malice is giving her trouble: "The Americans are so unfair. I always pray to God to give Clinton a feeling of fairness, and to give those in the world who never want to see the truth on Haiti an insight."

This night, three more followers of Aristide were killed, and in front of Grace Children's Hospital, desperate mothers laid down four undernourished babies.

The general had a good breakfast.

Jamaica

Opposition Questions UN Resolution on Intervention

FL0408124894 Kingston RJR Network in English 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The opposition Jamaica Labor Party [JLP] has raised serious concerns (over) the measure of the UN Security Council for permitting the United States to invade Haiti if it sees fit. The Party met in [word indistinct] to discuss the issue last night. JLP spokesman, (Max de Winter), says the Security Council needs to explain to the international community the reason for its action. [passage omitted]

PRI's Zedillo Makes Campaign Speech

PA0508030594 Mexico City Television Feed in Spanish
1845 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Speech by Ernesto Zedillo Ponce, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, at the National Democracy Forum; place and date not given; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] ...it is a dynamic party that acknowledges and integrates new forces as well as challenges new situations. It is a party that is transforming in order to respond to and heed the calls for internal democratization. It is an honest and spotless party, capable of competing with other parties under conditions of evenness.

We are the government party, and as such we seek to continue being the government party with the people's support. As the party in power, we identify with the government's programs, ideologies, and reforms. As the party in power, we are the first to insist the government honor our programs. In no way does our identification or demands mean, however, we are dependent on the government. [applause] I intend to give an account, for this reason, to my party for the completion of our political platform and our programs if elected president of the republic by majority vote.

It will only be through the support of my party that I will become the president of all Mexicans. My election will be for all those who supported me that I know [words indistinct] and the representation with which they entrusted me.

I firmly believe democracy demands a wise distance between the party and the government. The Constitution clearly identifies the arena that corresponds to each. My commitment will be to maintain the distance that must clearly separate us. I have already said it and would like to reiterate it today: The PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] does not want a state that takes possession of the party, nor do we want a party that takes possession of the state. That point is why [applause] I would like to, as a PRI member, contribute to encourage internal reforms of my party. I would like to do so prior to 1 December, because I will be a (?passive) PRI member as of that date.

You have my unbreakable commitment not to intervene whatsoever in the internal life of the party. [applause] The time is right for us to commit ourselves, prior to 1 December, to defining the agenda of the internal transformations we will be [words indistinct]. Once this agenda has been defined, I will propose we carry out throughout the first half of next year a democratic process of internal transformation, which will be implemented during the election process scheduled for the second half of 1995.

I believe the following issues should be included on the agenda and be discussed: The candidate selection process is a critical issue. Within the framework of electoral

competition, we need to nominate as candidates the best men and women in Mexico. As an organization that freely gathers active membership, we require that an evaluation be carried out only within the PRI by PRI members. [applause] It should never take place outside the party or apart from its active membership.

I recommend a precise formulation of the selection guidelines for candidates that respond to the aspirations of our grassroots; in other words, these guidelines should be openly democratic. It is essential that these guidelines be explicit and a guarantee for all PRI membership and that the selection criteria used to evaluate our membership and party loyalty be known within and outside the party.

It is essential to accredit our political offer and the rigorous application of our criteria before the society we represent. For my part, as a PRI member, I can recommend today, but only today and not after 1 December, that we encourage the democratic selection of our candidates and leadership via internal elections or representative conventions. [applause]

I want to be emphatic in my commitment to be the president of all Mexicans. I am determined, absolutely determined not to interfere, in any way, in the selection process of PRI candidates for any elected public posts, from municipal presidents to president of the republic. [applause]

Concerning issues of finance, a profound change has taken place in our party during this campaign. The PRI has agreed with the other parties to implement new electoral standards for equal competition and openness on the issue of the origin of campaign funds. We have accepted and are respecting the ceilings. We placed the responsibility on the party's capability to convene and its talent to collect funds. We have assumed, by our own decision, the responsibility of publishing periodic financial statements. These changes establish durable precedents and constitute one of the most noteworthy achievements in this campaign. We are able to come before the people to present the PRI's budget programs, disclosing the manner of how and what amounts are disbursed to each activity of our party.

I have invited the PRI members on many occasions, and I affirm today to engage in a scrupulously legal electoral conduct. This commitment is a political, ethical, and republican one, a conviction that includes all: the rank and file; leaders; representatives at the voting tables and in the electoral institutions; candidates for elected public posts; and sympathizers. I call on all PRI members, with respect yet firmly, to exert their best effort so the 21 August elections will be flawless. [applause]

A rigorously observed legality is our best defense. I have proposed that our party's Commission of Honor and Justice spearhead this effort; that is, to summon all the militants to be on the alert, to closely follow the electoral process and report irregularities or illegal actions. I

propose the commission investigate the facts. If the authors of illegalities are PRI members, they should be punished and reported. I also propose that the commission request the National Executive Committee report the facts when it has been determined that the law has been broken and that those responsible are not from our party. We must be especially alert about illegal actions committed by non-PRI members who want these actions to be blamed on our party. [applause]

With a modern, independent, and fighting party, we will strengthen our democracy with political opportunities and dialogue. This is the time for democracy, the reason why it is time to make commitments.

As a candidate for president of the republic, I am making a commitment to political ethics. I will respond to the convictions expressed herein. A speech is a tool of politics; it is also a means to win, to give trust, and to be called on to respond if the intentions do not correspond with actions. I express before you my democratic commitment, and I invite you to demand this of me. [applause]

Party comrades, the 21 August elections are called to be the significant democratic platform of society and the nation. When the PRI was the only political force capable of winning government positions, the elections also meant prominence and near domination by one party. We are living in a pluralistic society, as is expressed by political representation; therefore, the elections have another meaning. They do not exclude, nor can they exclude, any political force. The nation is enriched today by a plurality that is worthy of Mexico.

These elections are not the destruction of political forces. These elections will strengthen our party system. The 21 August elections are the natural step toward culminating the broad process of democratic transformation on the threshold of the 21st century, a process the government should guide with the participation of the union's powers, the states and municipalities, the parties, the social organizations, the media, and all the citizens. This process is one that should be encouraged by a broad policy of agreements and consensus on the contents, the instruments, and the time of each reform.

The commitments I have presented are part of an agenda that will enrich all Mexicans. There is room in this agenda for all proposals that are honest and made in good faith. We have a starting point that is an open proposal in which the issues demanded by society are given consideration. We offer avenues for a consensus that will guarantee a response claimed by the democratic vocation of Mexicans.

I am committed to demonstrating that there are solutions and that the PRI has the best solutions. I am also bent, however, on broadening the dialogue with the parties and society. We will demonstrate that dialogue and agreements are fruitful and that violence, confrontation, or rancor are not. We will demonstrate that

violence is always the fruit of discord. We will demonstrate that democracy is, given its very essence, the seed of harmony.

We are at the hour of the democratic call in Mexico. We will work courageously without having more gaps. We will work decisively without excluding anyone. We will work with full respect for our diversity and pluralism while promoting the main principle of uniting the nation.

Democracy cannot and must not be an excuse to divide us; on the contrary, democracy must become the path on which we all will converge without sacrificing our differences. We are part of a country that is getting rich on the heterogeneity of its cultural roots, its political pluralism, and its social diversity; this point is why we will promote the participation of every sector. Our desire is for each one of us to be able to speak and be taken into account and that each one of us will identify himself with our democracy.

I believe democracy is not only a method to organize a government but also a privileged path on which our society will accurately demonstrate its potential to ensure creativity will become the social characterization of a shared effort. This point is why, in addition to promoting a political democracy, I am fully determined to meet the demands of the democratic culture that is taking root within Mexican society.

We all must contribute to consolidating this democracy, because it fosters a culture of unity, peace talks, and true progress. I am convinced we Mexicans will be able to achieve the democracy for which we are striving. I am sure if we keep the paths open and if we are capable of making reforms and achieving consensus on the path to follow, we will reach profound agreements that will fulfill the Mexican people's call for democracy.

I pledge to head a government that will make democracy a routine practice and aspiration, a democracy inspired by ideals and actions, a democracy that will tighten the ties between government and society, a democracy of facts that will guarantee a coexistence of freedom and create the conditions to fight poverty, promote economic progress, create jobs, increase salaries, and meet our common aspirations of well-being and justice. This democracy is the one we want. This is the democracy to which I am committing myself. We will fight, vote, and succeed for this democracy on 21 August. This is the democracy [applause] the PRI wants and Mexicans demand. This is the democracy we will consolidate to ensure we will reach the new century together to honor our history and forge the future our children deserve. This is the time for democracy, and this is also the time for our party, the time for the PRI.

We, the PRI members, as usual, are present during these two times, evoking unity, republican discipline, political conviction, and a mind set on victory. Viva Mexico! [applause]

Deputy Finance Secretary on Foreign Financial Institutions

PA0408002094 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 Aug 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast; passages within quotations are recorded]

[Text] More than 100 banks, stock markets, and other subsidiaries of foreign financial institutions may be operating in Mexico before the end of 1994, as indicated by the number of requests the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat has received, Guillermo Ortiz Martinez, deputy finance and public credit secretary, has announced. He added this package of requests represents an investment of more than 9.3 billion pesos, or \$2.8 billion.

[Ortiz] "We received 112 requests, 11 of them from parent financial companies, 20 from banks, and 17 from stock markets. We have also received a large number of requests to establish financial corporations with limited liabilities, leasing, manufacturing, and investment companies, and the like."

The financial institutions interested in expanding their activities in Mexico come primarily from the United States, European countries, and Japan. Those banks include the largest ones in the United States. There are also Spanish, French, Netherlands, and German banks.

[Ortiz] "It is worth mentioning that with the elections two weeks away and taking into account developments that have taken place in the past months have made markets edgy, we are seeing an extremely positive and favorable response by the international community."

Financial authorities, the official has said, will analyze and rule on the requests and will announce permits in the next six to eight weeks.

[Ortiz] "All these requests come from the world's first-rate financial organizations. We expect to approve just about all of them."

Ortiz has said the goal of the economic opening is to benefit Mexican society by increasing demand and competition in the services this sector offers.

[Ortiz] "As you know, we authorized approximately 17 new banks and more than 20 financial corporations with limited liabilities from 1993 until now. This authorization increases the competition in local financial markets, to the benefit of companies, as they will be able to have greater opportunities to obtain financing at lower costs, and to consumers, who, of course, will have a greater variety of financial products at their disposal."

The official has said foreign banks and other financial corporations will operate under the same conditions as institutions controlled by Mexicans and will be subject to the market limits established in the appropriate chapter of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Commerce Secretary Announces Chiapas Investments

PA0508041294 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Aug 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Jaime Serra Puche, commerce and industrial development secretary, has announced in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, nine investments for the state's productive sectors, which will create 14,000 new jobs and generate 5 billion pesos in investments. To meet this goal, the various sectors have vowed to multiply job opportunities and improve income distribution for the people of Chiapas. Projects range from agriculture and cattle raising to the building of shopping centers.

Honduras

Army Chief Denies Rumors of 'Technical Coup'

PA0408195694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1848 GMT
4 Aug 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Aug (DPA)—General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, the chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, today denied that high-ranking military officers have suggested to President Reina the possibility of staging a "technical" coup d'etat.

The military officer this morning revealed to Radio America details of a meeting held on Tuesday between President Reina and the powerful and influential Armed Forces High Council—a kind of military parliament—to discuss issues such as Haiti, mandatory military service, and the future of the military.

According to the radio station, commanding officers within the Armed Forces complained to President Reina about the reduction of their forces and a lack of economic resources. The radio report also said the military officers asked the president to remove various ministers and other officials of his administration because of past membership in leftist organizations during their college years.

Gen. Discua denied the military asked the president to dismiss any official, but he conceded that many of those mentioned did indeed have leftist pasts—something he attributed to "their youthfulness."

Among those named as leftists was Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar, who was president of the Honduran Federation of University Students (FEUH), but the military leader reiterated the military had not asked for Paz Aguilar's removal.

According to the radio report, President Reina had been angered over being called to the meeting.

When asked to discuss the possibility of a technical coup, the military leader denied such possibility. Discua Elvir explained that at the meeting, "there was no mention of technical coup or coup d'etat," and President Reina understood this clearly and left the meeting happy.

The Honduran military officer, meanwhile, claimed the coup rumors are coming from none other than from within the government and the Presidential House, and he added that they are being started by people seeking to create distrust between civilians and military officers.

"The issue of the coup d'etat is a palace rumor that is baseless," Discua complained.

At the meeting held on Tuesday at the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, it was decided that the military would resume recruiting activities to fill the vacancies of soldiers who already fulfilled their obligation to serve in the military.

Congress Reviews Policy on Haitian Refugees

PA0408231394 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish
4 Aug 94 p 59

[Text] In terms of the Haitian situation, the National Congress yesterday urged President Carlos Roberto Reina to call on the Central American region to reconsider the resolutions issued during the presidential summit held in Costa Rica. The Congress also urged Reina to demand that the other Central American nations provide support equal to that being provided by Honduras, as they promised.

Addressing the full assembly, Congress President Carlos Roberto Flores called these demands a respectful proposal to be considered within the framework of foreign policy.

He said he regretted that poor countries are the ones that have to make the greatest sacrifice, and, at the same time, he said the nation should hold its head high and say with dignity that it is giving support to the Haitian refugees merely out of solidarity, "because Honduras' foreign policy must be conducted without expecting anything in return, if for no other reason than to abide by international commitments."

Flores said Honduras, just like Haiti, needs international solidarity, "and, hopefully, the other countries understand this noble gesture in light of the needs we are facing."

He added: "I hope other countries do not seek us only when we are needed to accept our compatriots from America and then later turn their backs on us when we face problems, such as the problems we are experiencing now, because only a few countries have expressed their solidarity at this time when our production is nearly paralyzed."

He recalled that perhaps part of the unease felt about accepting the Haitian refugees has been prompted by the fact that Honduras already did its share when it accepted refugees from other countries in the past decade—a gesture that failed to yield completely positive results.

Flores said: "We are not just facing property damage, but other kinds of damages that are much more costly. In the past, we had problems rebuilding democracy, and we were in the eye of a hurricane. This is why the topic of the refugees must be discussed separately, if it is the subject of negotiations, despite whether or not we are going to receive something in return."

He explained that if the refugee issue is handled based on the concept of inter-American solidarity, there must be other nuances and implications. "The problem," he said, "is that we take a myopic position when handling such problems.... If we make a noble gesture and receive nothing in return, we are told we are poor negotiators; if we ask for something, then we are told we are damaging our nation's dignity by seeking compensation."

Flores noted that if a commitment of solidarity was issued during the presidential summit, Honduras must demand the other countries in the region accept their share of sacrifice in a problem that concerns everyone, because it has to do with democracy and tyranny on the American continent.

He said Hondurans do not like other countries not making the quota of sacrifices to which they agreed, alleging lack of conditions. "Our country also lacks these conditions. We are going through a crisis that is keeping the country paralyzed. None of the other nations has the rationing of energy or the delay in production we are experiencing," he said.

He said President Reina should not be criticized for signing the agreement, but those who should be criticized are the other countries for their lack of solidarity.

He added another important point is whether a decision will be made based on a commitment with the United Nations or with the United States.

In his judgment and based on international treaties, Honduras must help, but saying it is in exchange for support to get a seat on the UN Security Council is not the issue under discussion. We are not helping "because the United States has asked for it but, rather, because Hondurans are noble people when it comes to dealing with these matters."

"I say this statement with due respect: The United States has built an insurmountable barrier for Haitians who want to reach the shores of that country; it talks about solidarity but allows other countries such as Honduras to practice that solidarity," he said.

He added they want Haitians to enter with visas and passports, "the reason why there are poor compatriots who are saying we should receive the Haitians but allow the United States to give visas to Hondurans who need to go to the United States."

If Haitian refugees are received, he said, the place where they will arrive must be established.

The Congress president said another matter up for discussion by the legislature will be a possible shipment of troops to Haiti. It is the duty of that branch of government to authorize any movement by a Honduran armed contingent to another country.

"If the executive branch commits itself to receiving refugees, that should be the extent of our obligation with regard to the rebuilding of democracy in Haiti. Let others send their troops," he warned.

He said it is not just the solidarity of Central American or Caribbean countries. "We want to see the solidarity of the entire continent." He said Hondurans have big problems and needs, "and the policy should be either we all receive refugees as an obligation or some show their gesture of humanity while others express solidarity in another fashion."

He explained, however, he did not want to commit the resolution that Congress will issue on this problem in due time, because it is hard to pass judgment on actions that have not occurred yet.

Foreign Minister Explains Haitian Situation

PA0508004094 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 4 Aug 94 p 58

[Text] After explaining the situation in Haiti for 45 minutes and after receiving serious criticism for the handling of Honduran foreign policy, Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar asked Congress yesterday to give him a "chance" to do the job.

The legislative branch invited Paz, and he was the object of serious criticism. For instance, of the 25 questions that were asked, most included accusations the government is not being too serious in adhering to a single policy over the decision the government will adopt regarding the conflict in Haiti.

The session was scheduled for 1000, but it did not start until 1215 and had to be suspended at 1500 due to a power outage.

At the start of the session, Congress President Carlos Roberto Flores introduced the official, who told the plenum we must all realize the country has only one international policy, which must be only one policy. Even though there may be differences inside the government, which is part of the democratic system, we should only have one common front abroad.

Why So Many Changes?

After Paz gave his explanations, National Party Deputy Johnny Handal started the question and answer period by saying that his party had many questions and that, if necessary, the session should be extended.

He was followed by Carlos Sosa Coello, deputy of the Social Democratic Innovation and Unity Party, who asked how many and which troops the government intended to send with the multinational force.

Liberal Party Deputy Orfilia Mejia asked whether the government had already consulted with the international organizations that will provide assistance to the refugees. Deputy Jorge Roberto Maradiaga asked whether the United States is setting conditions for the reception of the Haitians and what possibilities there were to negotiate the foreign debt. Deputy Rodolfo Irias Navas asked why the Swan Islands were chosen. Deputy Jack Arevalo recommended Honduras should negotiate the solution to its energy crisis with the United States. National Party Deputy Cesar Castellanos asked the foreign minister why he changed the country's foreign policy overnight.

Will Not Participate In An Invasion

In response to the questions, Paz said when the government announced it would not receive the Haitian refugees, it did so because it was not advisable at the time, but the government knew the requests would be received later.

"Had we said yes at that time, the refugees would have already been in the country," he added.

Concerning the deployment of troops to Haiti, Paz said there is confusion, because the debate has not ended yet, and his appearance before Congress is part of the debate. "Honduras is maintaining its position in the document it signed jointly with the Central American countries. Honduras will not participate in a military intervention or invasion in Haiti," he said.

"The Security Council has already authorized the use of force in the intervention of Haiti, but we could discuss whether it is advisable to send a symbolic contingent afterward, because we are not going to endanger the life of a Honduran citizen to go fight on Haitian soil," he said.

He also said he is maintaining a position of principles, because in case troops have to be dispatched, it will be done according to Article 205, No. 27, of the Constitution of the Republic, and it will be done under the same terms used when the departure of a Honduran contingent was authorized to travel to Western Sahara.

The United States Gave Its Support

He explained the Honduran seat at the UN Security Council is not linked to the Haitian crisis, because the struggle the country is waging to obtain that seat dates back several years. It began during the government of Jose Azcona and continued during the government of Rafael Leonardo Callejas, and this government is collecting the fruits of that work.

Due to the alleged conditions being set by the United States to support Honduras in obtaining a Security Council seat, he said it gave its complete, written support on 13 April and it was sent to the Foreign Ministry. He also said Honduras has the support of the various Latin American and Caribbean countries and that of the nonaligned countries. He said the Arab countries will decide in the next few days.

He said very emotionally: "To be on the UN Security Council is to belong to the world's board of directors, nothing less."

"Honduran democracy must be yielding certain fruits, because it is terrible to remember the past, when Honduras was known as the country that invaded Guatemala, that we waged a soccer war, and that we are a country of contras and missing people," he said. "That point is why we must all feel proud to be able to reach that seat, because it is not a recognition of the Carlos Roberto Reina government but, rather, of all Hondurans," he said.

If They Like the Place, They Stay

Victor Soriano Pizzatti, Marco Augusto Hernandez, Raul Pineda, Hernan Silva Baltodano, Denis Cubero, Donaldo Reyes Avelar, and Soad Salomon de Facusse

participated in the second bloc of questions, arguing refugees left negative repercussions in the country in the past and emphasizing the contradiction of sending troops abroad when the public lacks individual security.

Juan Ramon Miranda, Desiderio Carbajal, Victoria Contreras, Concepcion de Guevara, Jose Rodriguez, Fernando Anduray, and Jorge Corletto asked what was the basis for this exchange.

Meanwhile, Ricardo Rodriguez and Bayron Suazo asked Paz Aguilar what position he would assume if a multinational force invaded Cuba.

Marco Antonio Flores argued Honduras should not be seen as an harlot who sells or rents herself, and if it receives any refugees, it is to give humanitarian aid.

Paz acknowledged the deputies' concern over the ecological and economic impact involved in accepting the refugees, but he announced contacts have already been made with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (ACNUR). He said the refugees need security, not comfort, because if it is too comfortable, they may not want to leave. "Cubans in Miami can vouch for this point. They do not want to overthrow Castro, because they like Miami."

Not Even a Grain of Corn

Paz said they know the Swan Islands are not the most appropriate place, because a desalination plant, a huge craft, and a specialized unit for the treatment of excrement and solid waste would have to be taken.

"It is isolated from the rest of the country. The Haitian crisis will be resolved in fewer than six months, and they will be able to return. Logically, any arrival of refugees would have to take place considering the preservation and protection of the ecosystem, which is everyone's obligation," he said.

He insisted not a grain of corn or beans will be taken away from a Honduran, because if Haitians want to come, it will be their decision, and international organizations will foot the bill.

Other Countries Disqualify Themselves

Due to criticisms that other Central American countries did not accept the refugees, he replied if the text is read correctly "certain countries rejected the refugees due to internal conflicts."

"Only three countries remain: Honduras has already voiced its decision. Costa Rica will do so sometime this month, and Panama is still discussing it due to the transition to a new government," he said.

Concerning the information available to the government on the Haitian situation, he replied "although we do not have an embassy in Port-au-Prince, only an honorary consulate, our closest embassy in the Dominican Republic keeps us informed."

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In addition, the government receives information from the United Nations, the OAS, and the United States and analyzes it to make decisions.

Cynics or Fools

Answering another question, he acknowledged Honduras is facing an unstable situation, "and if that symbolic group of troops, which might number approximately 50 people, can help guarantee the security of Hondurans, I propose we had better leave them here, but we want them on the streets."

As for whether the government is welcoming Haitians in exchange for something, he said if they do something in exchange for something else, they are called cynics, and if they do something for free, they are called fools.

"It is a problem. That is why I ask you to give us an opportunity, because otherwise Honduras does not stand a chance of improving its conditions to rejoin the international community. We ask for understanding, for people to give us a chance to act in order to resolve these problems, and I commit myself to telling you the truth and to fighting to defend the best interests of Honduras," he said.

A Chance

He said he would rather be criticized for what he is doing than for not doing anything, because a government is judged in the end. "I ask you to give us a chance, an opportunity, and allow us to wait a few months to see what happens," he insisted.

He ended his statement by referring to his revolutionary struggles: "The years do not pass in vain. We have, logically, changed positions, but not trenches. We are very proud of our revolutionary past, and we are now supporting the moral revolution."

Concerning the Cuban situation, he said this government will continue the policies of the previous government, which made the historic decision of resuming relations with Cuba.

He recalled that there are commercial, economic, and sports relations and that only political and diplomatic relations are to be resumed, "and we hope the problem with Cuba will be resolved in the near future."

Nicaragua

Government Evicts Demobilized Resistance Members

PA0508050194 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
4 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Tatiana Roths Schuh]

[Text] The government has deployed the riot forces of the National Police to evict a group of demobilized Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] members, who took over

the INRA [National Institute for Agrarian Reform] facilities during the afternoon of 2 August to demand compliance with the demobilization agreements signed in 1990.

The riot forces were deployed yesterday morning after the squatters voiced their demands over the telephone. One such demand involved the mediation of Sergio Caramagna, CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] representative to Nicaragua, and the presence of INRA Minister Alvaro Fiallos.

The eviction sparked outrage among the demobilized, led by 25 chiefs. "It is very difficult in Nicaragua to obtain 10 plates of food but not 100 rifles. The government has the solution," said Javier Urbina Centeno, also known as "Condor," president of the Directorate Council of the 5th Region of the RN.

A very outraged Marvin Calero has accused the government and the National Police of being "partial," because as the Sandinists staged takeovers, the government promoted talks and negotiations prior to resorting to violent evictions.

Victorio Salvador Herrera, also known as *Alacran*, has said his group is demanding the issuance of property titles to more than 110,000 manzanas of land, which have already been assigned to 2,500 demobilized and which should include 4,000 new land grabbers.

Panama

President-Elect Confirms Bid To Mediate Haitian Crisis

PA0408181794 Panama City Telemetro Television
Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Aug 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares confirmed last night that he has offered to mediate in an effort to get Haiti's military leaders to leave power peacefully and thereby avert the trauma of an invasion. In discussing the issue of Haiti, President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares approved his government's mediation in the Haitian crisis to prevent a U.S. invasion.

[Begin recording] [Perez Balladares] We could do this if it somehow helps prevent what we know would be—if, indeed, it occurs—a very traumatic incident for Haiti, as well as for all of Latin America—namely an invasion, even if it is supported by the United Nations. If we can help prevent an invasion, we are willing to do so.

[Unidentified reporter] How would this assistance be provided?

[Perez Balladares] The only thing we have said is that if we can mediate to peacefully restore democracy in Haiti, we would be willing to do so. [end recording]

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Lawmakers Comment on Possible Invasion of Haiti

PA0408183494 Panama City Telemetro Television
Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Report by Francilino Diaz from the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] Concerning the issue of Haiti, the possibility of invasion has divided the opinion of Panamanian legislators. The government's decision to support an invasion in Haiti as a last resort to restore democracy in that country has caused contentious reactions among legislators.

MOLIRENA's [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] Olimpo Saez agrees with the government's position, because he believes an invasion is the only way to make military officers understand they cannot impose a government by way of force, mock the people's will, or bring poverty and hunger to the people.

[Begin Saez recording] I believe that given the current situation, we must not support the literature or demagoguery of those who do not dare to act, but we must support the people of Haiti who are physically suffering from the dictatorship of the military. [end recording]

Nevertheless, Alfredo Ehlers of the Christian Democratic Party has a different opinion. He said he hopes a negotiated settlement can be reached without having to resort to the use of force.

[Begin Ehlers recording] I do not approve of an invasion. We in Panama experienced the consequences of an invasion and will always remember them. [end recording]

Nevertheless, Ehlers stated that Haiti is a responsibility of every country in the world. He concluded, however, that he is aware the invasion is perhaps the only way in which the Haitian people can recover peace and tranquillity and can overcome the problems they have faced in the past.

Assembly Approves Immigration Agreement With Colombia

PA0408171994 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 Aug 94 p 2A

[Report by Jose Otero]

[Text] A plenary session of the Legislative Assembly yesterday approved in the third debate two international agreements signed between Panama and Colombia. The agreements specify the legal treatment to be given to illegal immigrants as well as the mechanisms for the transfer of Panamanian and Colombian prison inmates to their respective countries so that they can serve their jail terms there.

Both agreements, each one consisting of 12 articles, were signed last 23 February in the city of Medellin by the foreign ministers of Panama and Colombia, Jose Raul Mulino and Noemi Sanin, respectively.

The agreement on illegal immigrants has, as its main goal, the forging of a temporary instrument that will allow Panamanian illegal aliens to stay in Colombia and Colombian illegal aliens to stay in Panama. It also grants legal resident status definitively and freely to nationals of either country who remain in the other country illegally, provided they fulfill the requirements established under the current bilateral agreement.

This agreement also permits definitive residence rights and the right to work in the country, for which purpose the beneficiary must obtain the corresponding work permit or license from either Panama's Labor Ministry and Foreign Ministry or Colombia's Administrative Department of Security (DAS), in accordance with existing labor and commerce provisions.

This agreement will enter into force on the date both governments exchange documents, via diplomats, on compliance with the relevant requirements, and it will last one year and will be subject to extension by mutual agreement of the two parties.

Meanwhile, the treaty on the transfer of prison inmates from both countries is aimed at guaranteeing the protection of human rights, as well as respect for and the dignity of sentenced inmates.

It also establishes that convicted individuals will continue to serve the terms imposed by the transferring state [estado trasladante] in the receiving state [estado receptor], and according to the laws and procedures of the receiving state.

In addition to the transfers, this bilateral agreement establishes the requirements, documentation, justification, and obligations of the two states in the handing over of convicted individuals, as well as the validation and termination of the treaty.

Argentina**Official 'Strategy' To Arrive 'Late' for Haiti Invasion***PY0508033394 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish
4 Aug 94 p 16*

[Article by Daniel Ponce]

[Text] It was leaked at a meeting held on 2 August at the Olivos residence that the strategy adopted by the government is that of "arriving late" for the Haiti invasion.

President Carlos Menem, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, Senator Eduardo Vaca, Deputy Miguel Angel Toma (presidents of the Defense Committees of their chambers), and other government officials participated in the meeting.

LA NACION has been able to learn that the text has already been drafted, and will be sent to Congress next week. A "very zealous" study will be carried out by the committees from that time forward, with requests for information from government officials, including Dante Caputo, the UN negotiator in Haiti.

If everything goes as intended, the invasion will find Congress in full discussion and the executive branch without the appropriate authorization.

Thus by throwing the ball into another court, the president will indirectly resolve the internal conflict that the subject has created within the government, and will be able to tell Washington that he wanted to, but could not comply with his promise.

Then there is the intransigence of the UCR [Radical Civic Union], whose congressional blocs have ratified that they will not support the invasion, putting the government in the delicate position of having to be fully responsible for a decision that could provoke the death of Argentines.

But this will not happen, because even in the improbable case that the draft bill is debated it will not get through the Chamber of Deputies, where it is not only the opposition that is against it, but also some government congressmen, including Marcela Durrieu, Felix Pesce, Roberto Digon, and Patricia Bullrich, among others.

On 3 August Menem went a step further than the strategy approved in Olivos, when he said that men could be sent during a second or third stage after the invasion.

This variation also does not satisfy the UCR, which is entrenched in its traditional noninterventionism.

The new variation launched by the president implies, reading between the lines, abandoning the idea of participating in the invasion.

According to official sources it must be taken into account that to participate in a "second or third stage" our country's participation would be limited to peace

tasks with the Blue Helmets, as was the case with the former Yugoslavia, and this does not require the approval of Congress.

Menem: Troops Could Arrive in Second, Third Stage*PY0508024294 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish
4 Aug 94 p 1*

[Text] President Carlos Menem has announced that Argentina could move into Haiti in the second or third stage of the intervention that has been authorized by the United Nations, and said that if the Cedras regime allows it, he will send a plane to evacuate embassy personnel and any Argentine who is in that country.

In remarks made at Government House, Menem stated that the draft bill requesting authorization to send troops will be submitted to Congress "at the appropriate time. A date has not been determined because we are making a careful evaluation."

This decision has been interpreted as a change in the government's intention of sending combat troops to participate from the start in the invasion of Haiti.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella indicated to LA NACION that an evaluation is being made of the possibility that Argentine soldiers might participate, as French forces are doing in Rwanda, as custodians of the "citadel or sanctuary" that would be established directly after the landing to protect the women, children, and sick.

Defense Minister: Participation in Haiti Under Study*PY0408193494 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Aug 94*

[Report by Gaston Soulage from the General Lemos Combat Support School, Campo de Mayo—live]

[Text] President Carlos Menem has just left for his Olivos residence aboard a helicopter, having presided over a ceremony to bid farewell to 1,100 servicemen who will participate in UN peacekeeping forces: 900 in Croatia, 100 in Cyprus, and 100 in Kuwait. The president made no statement to the press when he left. He only referred to the ceremony he had just attended. He said:

[Begin Menem recording] It was a most moving and rewarding thing. [end recording]

Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, on the other hand, made some remarks to the press. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Camilion, in progress] ...the reassertion of the line known to all of us—namely, that the country has embarked upon a policy that seeks to support UN peacekeeping operations worldwide. This has been a successful policy in terms of its results. It has, moreover, given prestige to Argentina and its Armed Forces, which are satisfied from a professional standpoint at the line of action the government has taken, a

line of action which, together with the number of operations and servicemen, will therefore be maintained.

[Unidentified reporter] Will troops be sent to Haiti?

[Camilion] Argentina has always stated that it will support the UN operation in Haiti, but we still have to determine the way we are going to participate in that Caribbean country and at what moment....

[Reporter, interrupting] Could it be by sending a vessel?

[Camilion] We are studying that. The United Nations came to that decision on Haiti only some days ago, at the end of last weekend. So we still have to determine how we are going to participate. As I have said time after time, we have always considered it highly improbable that Argentina would participate in actual fighting in Haiti....

[Reporter, interrupting] How many servicemen are currently being confined to the barracks or called from the Reserves for this type of operation?

[Camilion] The only servicemen that are being confined to the barracks are those who are to sail on the (Drummond) frigate next week to relieve the one that is already there.

[Several reporters speaking at the same time] Will congressional procedures be respected?

[Camilion] If the executive branch were to plan to participate in, or intended to participate in, an operation other than a peacekeeping one, it would need congressional authorization.

[Reporter] The Haitian official in charge of commercial affairs said that Argentina has repaid Haiti quite badly considering how Haiti acted vis-a-vis Argentina during the Malvinas war....

[Another reporter, interrupting] ...that Argentina is most ungrateful.

[Camilion] That is a personal opinion. [end recording]

These were the defense minister's remarks after the farewell ceremony for the contingent that will leave for Croatia, Cyprus, and Kuwait.

Government Orders Evacuation of Embassy in Haiti

PY0508000694 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 4 Aug 94 p 14

[Text] On the afternoon of 3 August, the Foreign Ministry ordered the evacuation of the Argentine Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which is headed by Ambassador Carlos Carrasco.

The decision was made after our ambassador received death threats and due to the tense circumstances that followed the decision to support an eventual invasion, led by the United States, of that country.

The Foreign Ministry is studying three possible ways to safeguard the Argentine personnel (some 20 persons, including members of the National Border Guard who act as guards).

1. To move all personnel by land to the Dominican Republic.
2. To rescue them by sending an Argentine plane or a plane from a third country.
3. If the above are not feasible, the personnel could seek refuge at the U.S. or French Embassies, which have real bunkers for their protection.

Four Argentine journalists, including CLARIN's special correspondent, are in Port-au-Prince, in addition to the diplomatic and military personnel. It has been reported that these journalists may travel with the official delegation if they wish.

Argentina was mentioned in international news agency reports on 3 August as a participant in a Latin American mission that seeks to mediate with the de facto Haitian Government.

A high-ranking Argentine diplomatic source who was consulted on 3 August by CLARIN flatly denied that this mission of Latin American ambassadors did go to Port-au-Prince to talk with the Haitian military leadership. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Burelli Rivas guaranteed a few hours earlier that General Raoul Cedras, the commander in chief of the Haitian Army, had agreed to meet with the envoys, including Emilio Cardenas, the Argentine ambassador to the United Nations.

"That is just a smokescreen," said the Argentine diplomatic source (who asked to remain anonymous) when asked about the imminent trip of several Latin American ambassadors who would try to talk with Haiti's regime as a final recourse before the United States, at the head of a multinational force, begins a military invasion of Haiti. The measure has been authorized by the UN Security Council.

The Venezuelan foreign minister announced on 2 August that the mission would comprise ambassadors to the United Nations from five Latin American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela. Uruguay may add its ambassador to the mission.

Burelli Rivas said the trip sought to give the Haitian military chiefs "a last chance to avoid the tragedy" that a multinational intervention would imply.

The diplomatic spokesperson expressed his aversion to the position assumed by several Latin American countries that have launched another negotiating stage that would allow the Haitian regime to presuppose it could circumvent United Nations' rulings.

Congressmen Divided Over Military Intervention

PY0408202594 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Aug 94 p 5

[Excerpt] The executive branch has decided to postpone until next week the submittal to Congress of a bill

authorizing the dispatch of Argentine troops to Haiti. This decision was made on the morning of 2 August during a meeting called by President Carlos Menem. Also at the meeting were Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella; Miguel Angel Toma, the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee chairman; and Senate Defense Committee chairman Eduardo Vaca.

Argentina's participation in the military contingent, which seeks to reinstate Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, prompted controversy among political leaders yesterday. Most political leaders wish to refrain from participating in offensive actions and to refrain from taking any measure without exhausting all mechanisms of hemispheric consultation.

This disagreement involves all political trends. Ruling-party and UCR [Radical Civic Union] leaders favor militarily joining the United States while others flatly reject the proposal or have asked for restraint. In some cases, the diverse criteria prevailing within Peronism reflect contradictory positions within the cabinet.

The decision to delay submitting the bill to Congress basically follows a move by the pro-Menem group, which was not sure it had the required number of votes to approve it. [passage omitted]

Geopolitical View of Haitian Invasion Discussed

PY0408233694 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 4 Aug 94 p 23

[Article entitled: "We Must Go to Haiti" by Carlos Escude, writer and former adviser to Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella]

[Text] It may seem a paradox, but this author believes the eventual sending of Argentine troops to Haiti within the context of a multinational mission authorized by the United Nations and headed by the United States is not just desirable, it is essential, even though the operation could be a serious error for the United States.

This paradox emerges from a complex geopolitical picture that is very unfavorable for Argentina and which we have inherited through decades of blunders. This picture includes several components:

1. Political relations with Chile are currently excellent, but the power behind the throne in that country continues to be the military, and they are anti-Argentine. They are anti-Argentine because they have been indoctrinated (just like our military forces) to view the country just over the Andes as their enemy and because the collapse of military power in our country is repulsive for them: It is the antithesis of what they want for themselves.

2. Through the Malvinas War, Argentina obtained a dangerous enemy. Political relations with the United Kingdom are optimum, but the arms embargo against Argentina will probably continue all the time Argentina maintains its claim

over the Malvinas. Although the current Argentine Government has renounced the use of force, no one can guarantee this will continue in a post-Menem government. No one wants to arm a potential enemy and it is understandable that the United Kingdom should continue its embargo and obstruct the sale of sophisticated weapons to Argentina from third countries.

3. Meanwhile, the British weapons industry wants to sell, and it looks at Chile. Margaret Thatcher's trip to that country (and her anti-Argentine, armamentist, and bellicose speech) in March 1994 illustrates this phenomenon.

4. Despite the good political relations with both countries (the British and Chilean Governments), it is precisely for this reason that Chile and the United Kingdom are natural allies against Argentina. This will continue all the time there are anti-Argentine military men in Chile and while Argentina's permanent claim to the Malvinas makes our country a natural enemy for Great Britain.

5. Within this context of encirclement—which is the aftermath of errors committed in the past—and to crown it all, Argentina finds itself almost defenseless. This is due to the astronomic foreign debt (which was accumulated by the military government), to the mass destruction of equipment in the war that was wished upon us by the same military government, and to the need for adjustment generated by the 1989-90 hyperinflation.

6. Faced with these circumstances, our sole fragile reassurance lies in the consolidation of our political-military alliance with the United States. From a geopolitical perspective this is a crucial alliance for Argentina, which must nurture itself on every possibility that turns up. To enter Haiti will be an error for the United States, but to join in will be an accomplishment for Argentina.

The gambit will help redefine the role of our Armed Forces. The move can be justified by an idealistic (although probably a sterile and costly) urge to export democracy. It is a pretty sure thing that the United States will get bogged down in Haiti. Yet it is in our national interests to support that country.

Ruckauf Blames Lebanese Group for AMIA Attack

PY0408200294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1950 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Aug (NA)—Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf said today that the attack on the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association] "was clearly carried out by a guerrilla group based in Lebanon." The minister refused, however, to identify the group due to secrecy requirements.

The minister said: "A number of measures within and outside the country" are being implemented to find out who was responsible for the terrorist attack that killed 95 people and injured 250.

Ruckauf told a radio station that the investigation abroad "seeks evidence" while the domestic inquiry "is looking for suspects."

Ruckauf stressed the difference between "important investigation progress and the existence of evidence that can be presented in court."

The minister said: "It is one thing to have a clear idea of what happened and firm suspicions on the involvement of some suspect. It is altogether different to have proof."

"In a democracy you cannot punish anyone based on suspicions; proof is needed," the minister stressed.

Regarding the inquiry on the AMIA attack that is being conducted by Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano, Ruckauf said the judge "has sent an official note to President Carlos Menem asking the executive branch to abstain from releasing information."

Ruckauf added: "The request includes ministers. I think this is totally reasonable because if we comment on the investigation we are telling the criminals what is going on."

Asked about the Brazilian police communique warning of possible new attacks on Jewish banks in South America, Ruckauf said: "We did not receive any specific information on targets."

He admitted, however, that "on other occasions we have received general reports as part of a world response to specific Israeli actions in the Middle East."

Ruckauf made clear that his portfolio is not responsible for the Security Secretariat, stressing that this recently created organ "is subordinated to the president."

Asked about Brigadier General Andres Antonietti, retired, who heads the secretariat, the minister stressed his "moral qualities."

Ruckauf concluded: "President Menem has known him for a long time and trusts him. He considered Antonietti's values and capacity when appointing him to head this very important component."

The minister also talked about the justice department proposal to permit the police to raid suspicious premises without a court order and to extend the detention of suspects without consulting a judge.

He said in the case of detentions the issue "has procedural importance because it allows the police to act when a judge cannot be found," adding that "Congress must carefully analyze the issue."

Ruckauf supported the proposal, saying that "the people today know we are not properly protected in terms of legal procedures."

Bolivia

Government Rejects Force To Resolve Haiti Crisis

PY0508030994 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] It was surprising to hear that Bolivia supports military intervention in Haiti in accordance with a UN

resolution, when some Latin American countries, faithful to a very coherent tradition, have rejected it, such as is the case with Venezuela and Colombia.

According to news from Europe, Bolivia would even send troops to support the invasion. But the Bolivian Foreign Ministry has released a denial, saying that the comments by International Relations Secretary Jaime Aparicio, who is in Germany, were misinterpreted, that Bolivia would send troops after the de facto regime governing Haiti was overthrown, and that these troops would go to train and improve the services of the Haitian military. The statement also says that this possibility of military support is not being considered within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 940, which contemplates the restoration of democracy through military intervention, as the Bolivian Government rejects solutions imposed by the force of arms, and reiterates its position that all means available must be exhausted to reach a peaceful solution to this crisis.

Work Stoppages Continue 4-5 Aug; No Incidents

Santa Cruz Stoppage Termed 'Success'

PY0408175594 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Report from Santa Cruz by Marcelo Huanca Dorado]

[Excerpts] Santa Cruz yesterday reasserted its support for decentralization. The civic committee stoppage was observed throughout the Santa Cruz district. This eminently generous and honest people unanimously rallied in defense of their right to elect their departmental government which some politicians who refuse to relinquish their power at the regional level want to curtail.

Public transportation, salaried workers, businessmen, shopowners, and even public employees, who received threats of being fired if they did not work, supported the stoppage.

Local prefect Julio Leige had no alternative but to acknowledge the success of the stoppage in Santa Cruz, although he defended the government's position on Articles 109 and 110 of the Constitution.

The police were in their barracks but their presence was not needed on the streets because there were no incidents reported. There were no incidents of social disorder reported. [passage omitted]

At the end of the 24-hour stoppage, the Santa Cruz Civic Committee president thanked citizens for their support and warned that the struggle will continue until decentralization is achieved:

[Begin Santa Cruz civic committee president recording in progress] ... noble attitude of the departmental capital and the 15 provinces in support for their genuine demand to achieve the decentralization of the regional civic movement, reasserts the Santa Cruz residents' civic awareness.

Such categorical expression of civic-minded spirit renews and strengthens the community's support for the Santa Cruz regional government.

We must also praise the attitude of Tarija residents who today are staging a 24-hour stoppage in adherence to this movement that supports a true decentralization.

In addition, the people of Beni will stage a civic stoppage on 4 August. For its part, the La Paz department has announced that it will stage a 24-hour stoppage on 5 August, while Cochabamba has declared a state of emergency.

These magnificent expressions of civic-minded spirit and social awareness are a clear signal to the national government, and particularly to our legislators, who must choose to uphold the mandate of the people who elected them or the instructions imparted by their respective political bosses. [end recording]

This was a part of the message issued at the end of the successful 24-hour stoppage.

Moreover, the number of people fasting rapidly increased throughout the district because in total there were about 120 people fasting. This number may increase today, however.

Local universities and other regional organizations have announced that today they will be staging several marches in support of the national civic movement.

In addition, organizational leaders have reported that they are awaiting instructions from national civic movement leaders to turn this into a national stoppage. They also praised the courageous decision of Beni and La Paz department residents who will be staging their regional stoppages on 4 and 5 August.

Stoppages Threatened in La Paz, Beni

PY0408183294 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Gaston Medrano, La Paz civic movement spokesman, by Fides reporter Jaime Murillo in La Paz—live]

[Text] [Jaime Murillo] We are holding a telephone interview with Gaston Medrano, the official spokesman of the La Paz civic movement. We want to confirm reports that a 24-hour stoppage will be staged in La Paz.

[Gaston Medrano] After intense negotiations last night, we submitted an official counterproposal to the government at 2300. It remains unanswered. On the contrary, time has gone by and these negotiations have shown that the government does not intend to engage in serious and honest negotiations. It is only striving to postpone the negotiations to be able to achieve the two-thirds it needs in the Chamber of Deputies to approve the amendments of Articles 109 and 110.

This government attitude, which can only be described as dishonest and which severs negotiations with the national government, demands a categorical response. In view of this, the civic movement has decided to stage a 24-hour stoppage today in Beni department, and to reassert all measures of force, including the La Paz department civic stoppage as of 0000 5 August.

[Murillo] Is there any possibility of solving this situation today?

[Medrano] We believe we have clearly shown our willingness to hold dialogue. Unfortunately, there has been no response. At any rate, it is well-known that the national civic movement has always been willing to achieve a friendly agreement. In view of this, we will wait for a response. This notwithstanding, we are summoning a news conference for 0900 [date not specified], during which we will express a definitive position and surely summon departmental and party brigades to support articles 109 and 110 as established in the Constitution in view of the virtual failure of the dialogue.

[Murillo] That was Gaston Medrano, the La Paz civic movement spokesman. As you have heard, there is still time for the government to respond before the decision on whether to stage a 24-hour stoppage in La Paz.

Government Surprised By Talks Suspension

PY0408233394 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Executive branch officials said this morning they were surprised at the civic movement leaders' decision to interrupt negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Social Communications Minister Ernesto Machicao] The government has been in permanent contact with the civic committees and has never interrupted dialogue. If they have now decided to interrupt negotiations, it is a unilateral decision.

[question indistinct]

[Machicao] I hope negotiations will not be suspended. I reassert that, if they do, it is a unilateral decision adopted by the civic committee. The government is not responsible for this.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] the government position?

[Machicao] The government is always willing to negotiate, to achieve consensus. It is now in the hands of the civic committees to achieve this consensus and include it in an agreement.

[Reporter] In view of Paraguayan President Wasmosy's arrival on the eve of independence day ceremonies, how do you view the situation?

[Machicao] President Wasmosy is arriving on 6 August. He is arriving at 0730 on 6 August. It is obvious that the basic issue is not the stoppage but the negotiations and

the need to achieve consensus. We are interested in achieving consensus through dialogue. I reassert that if the civic committee leaders decide to interrupt negotiations, it is an unacceptable unilateral decision.

[Reporter] Why does the government use double standards in its negotiations? It refuses to negotiate under pressure from the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation], but this is not the case with civic committees. Why is this?

[Machicao] I do not think this is true. We have negotiated with the COB in both situations: with and without pressures.

[Reporter] (According to the government,) the civic committee leaders are being inflexible and adopting measures of force.

[Machicao] I believe the civic committee leaders have always been inflexible. They staged a fast in the middle of dialogue. They later assessed the situation and resumed the dialogue but continued their fast. The dialogue was about to achieve consensus, and I believe there is still hope for the negotiations. I believe the dialogue must continue. [end recording]

La Paz Civic Committee Confirms Stoppage

PY0408192894 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The presidents of the national civic committees and the government have been unable to reach an agreement on government decentralization. Executive branch representatives have stated that it is the civic committee leaders who have severed the negotiations.

In view of this, it has been confirmed that a 24-hour stoppage will be held on 5 August in La Paz, while a civic stoppage was staged today in Beni department. The civic committees are starting to adopt more radical measures.

This is the first time in history that a civic committee stoppage will be staged in La Paz on independence day. This is what will happen tomorrow because the La Paz Civic Committee president has confirmed the staging of the civic stoppage:

[Begin La Paz Civic Committee president Roberto Freyre recording] I confirm that this stoppage will be held on 5 August. In view of this, and through you, I urge all La Paz citizens, who on three previous occasions have supported us with their characteristic trustworthiness, dignity, and courage, to support us in this new instance in which La Paz will defend its rights and those of the entire Bolivian people. [end recording]

Asked whether the stoppage may be suspended, he said:

[Begin Roberto Freyre recording] I believe that at this stage it is absolutely impossible to do so. The stoppage, therefore, will be staged tomorrow. [end recording]

Freyre denied a ruling party legislator who said there is disagreement within the civic movement. Civic movement leaders insist legislators should not amend articles 109 and 110 concerning the establishment of departmental assemblies. [passage omitted]

Tarija State of Emergency Continues

PY0408155094 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Report from Tarija by Julio Cesar Fernandez]

[Excerpts] Civic discipline was the main characteristic of yesterday's departmental stoppage. In an assessment of yesterday's 24-hour stoppage, the civic committee leaders expressed their gratitude to Tarija citizens for their exemplary attitude:

[Begin unidentified civic committee leader recording] We are very proud to note Tarija citizens' exemplary civic discipline. Despite innumerable problems, harassment, and repression, citizens have shown the political class that civic values are upheld in Tarija and that they believe in honesty above everything else. [end recording]

In addition, Tarija Civic Committee President (Eduardo Darwich) said that although the stoppage ended yesterday at midnight, the state of emergency continues. He also charged that Tarija citizens had to endure police aggression to ensure the success of the stoppage:

[Begin (Darwich) recording] On behalf of the departmental civic committee, I would like to extend our gratitude to those who have participated in the stoppage in an effective and notable manner. Despite the sacrifice, police repression, and beatings, they have courageously defended the need of the people to express their love for Tarija. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The departmental prefect has asserted that 70 percent of all regional activities were carried out in a normal manner. He added that there was slight support because of civic pressure exerted on citizens in general. He also charged that (Darwich) is committing slander when he alleges that he was threatened by the forces of order. [passage omitted]

National Holiday Declared To Counter Strike

PY0508032294 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The government answer to the stoppage called by the civic committee of La Paz for 5 August was quick and definite. Let us recall that a few days ago the government said that the only independence holiday will be on 6 August. The government has now, however, changed its position.

It is obvious that the government is not conceding something to the public, but rather responding to the civic committee stoppage. The government has decided to suspend public and private activities throughout the whole of national territory on 5 August. This holiday will

be allowed by agreement of the parties. Therefore, tomorrow, 5 August, will be a national holiday coinciding with the civic stoppage. This is the government's answer to efforts by the civic committees to exert pressure on the government to change two articles of the Constitution, or rather not to change them the way the government plans to. The reform of the articles is an issue that must be debated by Congress, on which the government has an influence.

Sanchez Rules Out Possible 'Self-Inflicted Coup'

PY0408173194 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 29 Jul 94 p 9

[Text] President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada yesterday definitely ruled out the possibility of a self-inflicted coup similar to the one staged by Fujimori [Fujimorazo] in view of the failure to obtain Senate approval of the amendment of Article No. 230 of the law which talks about the need to reform the Constitution.

Sanchez de Lozada made this comment after Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] Senator Antonio Sanchez de Lozada warned two days ago about the risk of a "Fujimorazo" if Article No. 230 of the law on the need to reform the Constitution was not amended.

Following the opening of a seminar for Bolivian businessmen, the head of state asserted: "I believe all of you who know me know that that will not be the case in Bolivia. What was said was that when something is very inflexible, when a tree cannot withstand a storm, it is no good."

Sanchez de Lozada thus clarified MNR Vice President Juan Carlos Duran's comment that, in his opinion, Antonio Sanchez de Lozada's statement had been taken out of context. "What he said was that extremely inflexible constitutions bring about changes, not precisely in democracy, and that one does not have to be a magician to realize that. All you need is to read the Constitution."

Since the law on the need to reform the constitution (April 1993) was approved, the aforementioned article establishing the mechanisms to amend the constitution stirred up a lot of polemics.

In this regard, the head of state said that "to not approve a modified and adjusted Article No. 230—because it can be improved—would be a mistake, but I do not think this is the end."

Resigned, the chief of state said that the main obstacle to approval of the aforementioned article of the Constitution lies in not being able to secure a two-thirds vote in Congress.

After starting a reconciliation process in Bolivia on 9 July 1992 that gained historical importance, amendments to the Constitution cannot be implemented by force and President Sanchez de Lozada is aware of that: "If people are not willing to accept the amendment of the Constitution, we will not resort to a Fujimorazo."

He confessed that he did not want to force the approval of Article No. 230 to avoid upsetting the frail consensus reached with the heads of the political parties.

Moreover, Sanchez de Lozada said that the meetings he had held with the leaders of political parties, the military high command, the police high command, Supreme Court magistrates, and civilian leaders had been patriotic.

Sanchez de Lozada said that "the full success of the reconciliation process will become obvious in the Chamber of Deputies, a political arena where a true confrontation of ideas regarding the constitutional reforms will take place."

Armed Forces Reject Self-Coup

PY0508011894 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 29 Jul 94 p 7

[Text] The Armed Forces yesterday rejected the idea of a "Fujimori-style" self-coup in Bolivia, as some senators of the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) have insinuated.

General Fernando Sanjines, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has said the military have a clear position concerning the intended amendment of Article 230 of the Constitution, as proposed by some congressmen who hinted that Congress could be immediately closed if that article was not changed. In the end the article was not changed.

"The Armed Forces' position is the one we conveyed during the meeting we held with the president of the Republic (a week ago). During that meeting we expressed our opinion and we maintain it," Sanjines said in a brief chat with PRESENCIA.

Sanjines was asked: How do the Armed Forces view remarks by Senator Antonio Sanchez de Lozada about a possible "Fujimori-style" self-coup in Bolivia?

He answered: "It is mere speculation which has nothing to do with the task of the military within the democratic process." He reaffirmed the institutional support of the state of law which has prevailed since October 1982 in the country.

Several MNR senators, among them Antonio Sanchez de Lozada—the brother of the president of the Republic—Walter Zuleta, and Guillermo Richter, did not rule out the possibility that the strictness of Article 230 of the Constitution will very soon force the adoption of a measure similar to that adopted by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori in 1992, who closed the Peruvian Congress and called a constituent assembly.

"Historically we have never been able to democratically amend our constitutions, all the changes have been made through coups and constituent assemblies which merely legalize de facto governments," Senator Sanchez de Lozada said last Wednesday.

That same day MNR Senator Walter Zuleta said "the refusal by the opposition parties to allow Article 230 to be 'elasticized' could force the government to adopt an exceptional stance and could compel it to adopt measures similar to that adopted by the Peruvian president."

Nevertheless, Admiral Julio Molina, commander of the Bolivian Naval Force, said that the position expressed by the commander in chief deserves the Armed Forces' total support.

He said: "The commander in chief is the only person authorized to officially express the military position on issues being discussed in the country."

Brazil

Franco Defends Brazilian Abstention in Haiti Case

PY0408175194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1659 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Brasilia, 4 Aug (AE)—Shortly before boarding the airplane that will take him to Argentina, President Itamar Franco said that out of respect for the Brazilian Constitution, Brazil had to abstain from voting in the UN Security Council session approving an intervention in Haiti. Franco asserted that Brazil's abstention means nonapproval of the measures advocated by the UN Security Council. Brazil's decision, Franco said, was approved by the PRC and by countries that do not vote in the UN Security Council, like Venezuela and Uruguay.

Editorial Views Problems Facing Haitian Invasion

PY0408214194 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 2 Aug 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Into the Danger Zone"]

[Text] It is necessary to clearly distinguish between the UN Security Council resolution authorizing intervention by the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, and the recent similar deliberation regarding Haiti. It is unnecessary to reiterate that the UN Security Council made the former decision in face of an act of aggression: The invasion, a few months earlier, of Kuwait by the Iraqi Army.

If Haiti is really to be intervened, the most adequate comparison would be the military expedition to Panama in 1989, during the George Bush administration, which ended in the arrest of Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega and which caused hundreds of casualties. This operation, by the way, did not have UN approval. During Ronald Reagan's time at the White House, the United States invaded Grenada and overthrew its government—also by surprise.

It would be regrettable if Democratic President Bill Clinton should resort to "big stick" diplomacy which really alienates countries that reject foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of others. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Brazil reacted in

keeping with the principles that have guided its diplomacy, and that of most countries in the continent, by abstaining in the vote on an armed intervention in Haiti. While it is true that legally elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide was expelled by force and prevented from coming to power in Haiti, and that the total absence of guarantees has led thousands of people to abandon their country under the most hazardous conditions, it is also true that an invasion could have unexpected consequences.

Even the U.S. Government is aware of this. As international affairs experts have said, the task of deploying American troops and militarily occupying Haiti is operationally insignificant. No one believes the government of President Emile Jonassaint, who is a puppet of the real power holder General Raoul Cedras, will put up any serious resistance to an American attack. The issue is not to enter Haiti: The issue is how to leave, assured that the bases of a democratic government and a viable economy have been established.

An invasion of Haiti will not be a surgical operation as quick and efficient as that in Panama and Grenada where governments were overthrown and the local political factions were left to resolve their problems on their own with Washington's approval. Haiti, the poorest country of the continent, has had its weak economy ruined in the past few years, its people survive amid hunger and terror, and the small elite class is an abettor of the current administration. Thus, U.S. occupation would be long and would tend to transform that country into a protectorate.

Beside this complicated move into the danger zone, which would certainly affect relations between the United States and the other countries of the continent, there is absolutely no guarantee that, following the final withdrawal of the U.S. troops, the situation would not return to the previous state. Witnesses to this are the interventions by the United States in Central American countries, where traces of their tenacious dictatorships still linger.

Thus, the best that can be expected is that the UN authorization of a military intervention should be enough to cause the downfall of the Jonassaint-Cedras government and the reestablishment of a democratic administration headed by Aristide. Since the United Nations did not establish a period of time to implement the armed action, this may happen in the next few weeks. But it must be clearly understood: The economy of Haiti and its democratic future will not survive without a massive influx of international financial aid coordinated by organizations like the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the World Bank.

PSDB 'Had To Accept' Maciel as Running Mate

PY0508034494 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Aug 94 p A5

[Article by Christiane Samarco and Marta Salomon]

[Excerpts] Brasilia—Exactly 92 days after rejecting Senator Marco Maciel (PFL-PE) [Liberal Front Party-Pernambuco State] as Fernando Henrique Cardoso's running mate on the presidential ticket, the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] leadership early yesterday morning had to accept "the Maciel solution" for the vice presidential slot, replacing Senator Guilherme Palmeira (PFL-Alagoas). Upon announcing Maciel's election shortly after midnight, Cardoso said: "The case is closed."

One hour after a dinner hosted for Palmeira at the Piantella restaurant, a PFL leader said: "We found the best possible solution to this problem." The solution appeared to be sweeter to the PFL than to the PSDB members. Cardoso said: "The important thing is that prompt action has been taken." Pimenta da Veiga, president of the PSDB and coordinator of Cardoso's campaign, said that the political conditions prevailing three months ago were not conducive for Maciel to be on Cardoso's ticket. Because opposition within the PSDB to its coalition with the PFL has subsided, the rejection of Maciel has been overcome. [passage omitted]

The PFL leadership was already determined to choose Maciel from the outset of the operation staged to prevent the PSDB presidential candidate from losing any ground over this incident, and thus avoid a loss similar to that experienced by the PT [Workers Party] over the resignation of Senator Jose Paulo Bisol (Brazilian Socialist Party-Rio Grande do Sul) as Lula's [Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva] vice presidential candidate. The PFL attempted to resolve the Palmeira problem over the weekend. Pimenta da Veiga sounded out PFL members on 30 July. On 31 July, PFL President Jorge Bornhausen asked Palmeira to join him for lunch in Florianopolis (Santa Catarina), thus beginning a number of meetings that would put an end to this matter in under 50 hours. [passage omitted]

Marco Maciel Nomination 'Helps' PT's Position

PY0408155794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2207 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Sao Paulo, 3 Aug (AE)—The PT (Workers Party) has commemorated the nomination of Senator Marco Maciel (PFL-Pe) [Liberal Front Party - Pernambuco] as vice presidential candidate on the ticket of Fernando Henrique Cardoso (PSDB) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]. The PT believes that the name of Maciel will help its strategy in the free electoral propaganda space granted by the Superior Electoral Court. The PT strategy envisages attacking Cardoso by exploiting the conservative profile of his allies and their links with the military regime and the Collor administration. "Maciel is closely linked with the military regime," PT presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said today. "He is the main PFL representative, and this helps us to clearly demonstrate that he is part of the same forces of the past which are uniting to elect Cardoso," said the new PT vice presidential candidate Aloizio Mercadante.

Lula clearly explained another PT strategy line: To tell the voters that the PFL will have great influence in an eventual Cardoso administration. "Fernando did not choose Maciel; he was a victim of the PFL, which imposed Maciel's name on him, demonstrating that their alliance is no joke," he said. "Fernando would have chosen another name with a less compromising political past."

The PT candidate for Sao Paulo governor, Jose Dirceu, reinforced this point and disclosed that the PT will exploit these subjects as much as possible during the free electoral propaganda on radio and television. "We will reveal Marco Maciel's curriculum on television," he said. "He was one of the authors of the April package of measures issued during the Geisel administration which ended in the closure of congress," Dirceu said.

According to Mercadante, the PT's strategy to attack the alliance that supports Cardoso has received great help with the election of Marco Maciel. "In the campaign against Collor, it was very difficult for the people to see who he really was because he seemed to be someone new, when in truth he was the expression of all the political backwardness," he said. "This time it will be more evident because Maciel represents very well the alliance that was made. He held important posts during the military regime, and he served the Sarney and Collor administrations. He represents the backward forces and an oligarchic elite that controlled public life in years past, and he did not implement the changes the country needed even though he could have done so from his position," Mercadante said.

Agents Help Investigate Argentina Bombing

PY0408195394 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Aug 94 Section 2 p 8

[Article by Sonia Mossri]

[Text] The SAE [Strategic Affairs Secretariat] has sent Intelligence Department agents to Buenos Aires to help Argentine police investigate the AMIA (Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association) bomb attack.

Prior to the 19-July attack, the U.S. intelligence service (CIA) and the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad) warned the Federal Police and the SAE that terrorists were being deployed to the Third World, especially to South America.

These intelligence services believe Iranian embassies worldwide serve as logistic support bases for terrorist actions.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim arrived in Buenos Aires on 30 July to meet Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

Amorim did not want to discuss the work of the SAE agents in Buenos Aires or comment on the charges published in THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH of London.

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FOLHA has been told that the Brazilian Government wants to adopt security measures on the Brazilian-Argentine border.

The State Intelligence Secretariat—the Argentine Government intelligence organization—believes the terrorist group that planted the bomb at the AMIA may have escaped to southern Brazil across the Argentine border.

Brazilian Government intelligence organizations are trying to find out if terrorist groups of Arab-origin have any connections in Brazil.

The investigation has not found any evidence that the terrorist attacks conducted in Argentina were planned in Brazil, as the Argentine Government initially suspected.

Government Seeks To Strengthen Ties With Russia

PY0408192494 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 1 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi]

[Text] Following a recent visit to Moscow by Itamaraty Secretary General Roberto Abdenur, Brazil and Russia have decided to intensify bilateral relations. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim will visit Moscow in November accompanied by a delegation of businessmen, and the Russian deputy minister of agricultural affairs will visit Brazil in September or October. The Russian first deputy minister of economy [not further identified] and a business delegation are scheduled to visit Brazil in August.

Brazilian diplomacy wants to improve the level of economic and political relations with Russia just as it did with China. Abdenur also invited two rising Russian politicians to visit Brazil: Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who might succeed Boris Yeltsin, and Viktor Cheinis, a specialist in Latin American affairs. Abdenur met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, with whom he discussed issues such as the expansion of the UN Security Council. Abdenur told the Russians that Brazil will open an embassy in the Ukraine this year. The Brazilian Government offered technical assistance to prepare Russia to join GATT. Russian officials will visit Brazil to learn better how a country like Brazil operates within GATT.

Chile

Cuban Gymnast Seeks 'Political Asylum'

PY0408194394 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Alina Adam Pohl, a 24-year-old Cuban physical education and gymnastics instructor, has reiterated her request for political asylum in Iquique.

The young Cuban instructor officially lodged a request with government authorities in Iquique, seeking to remain in Chile in view of a series of job offers. [passage omitted]

She arrived in Chile in May in response to an invitation extended by the mayor of Iquique. Her visa is valid until 14 August and may be renewed. Alina Adam said she decided to stay in Chile because living conditions in Cuba are very difficult. She refused to talk about politics. [passage omitted]

Colombia

New Paramilitary Group Emerges in Antioquia

PA0408164894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Jul 94 p 25A

[Text] Medellin—Spokesmen for a new paramilitary group calling itself "Colombia Without Guerrillas" (Colsingue) have announced the beginning of a battle to the death against the members, politicians, and combatants of the nation's subversive groups, adding that Colsingue will confront them on their own terms by using their own methods.

In a communique sent to the Medellin media on 28 July, the clandestine group claimed responsibility for the murders of three union leaders last week in Antioquia. Colsingue earlier had accused the slain union members—Guillermo Marin, Efrén Correa, and Jairo Leon Agudelo—of being well-known subversive leaders.

In the communique, Colsingue members justified their emergence as a result of "the state's inability to counter the barbarous acts perpetrated in the past few months by bandits who call themselves guerrillas and who attack civilians and Armed Forces members mercilessly by resorting to mercenary methods protected under the cowardly routine of ambushing, killing, and fleeing into the dense forests."

The group taking justice into its own hands said it will respond to the rebels' attacks by resorting to their own tactics: "We are bound to defend ourselves and to confront these killers on their own terms by using their own methods."

Colsingue spokesmen pointed out that they intend to eradicate, once and for all, the scourge of the guerrillas in Colombia by carrying out a rural and urban conflict, adding, "just as they do not respect their enemies outside the battlefield, we will not respect their political and union leaders."

The communique was sent to the Medellin media following the murder by gunmen of union leader Guillermo Marin on the night of 28 July.

It is worth mentioning that other groups taking justice into their own hands, namely "Kankil" and "Black Hand," have emerged in Antioquia since the late 1970's. Recently, groups such as the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar (Pepes) and the Death to Car Thieves [Muerte a Jaladores de Carros] (Majaca) started operating in this department.

Recent investigations by Medellin authorities showed that the Majaca was responsible for 80 murders in three months, but it has remained inoperative lately. Meanwhile, the Pepes disappeared just before the demise of the Medellin Cartel chief, Pablo Escobar Gaviria.

The emergence of Colingue takes place at a time when the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] is staging an offensive against the Armed Forces and the country's highways and oil pipelines—an offensive that has left a large number of dead, including military agents, guerrillas, and civilians, and has resulted in a huge amount of property damage. The guerrilla offensive has included the assassination of the 4th Army Division commander, simultaneous attacks on military camps, attacks on energy and communications infrastructure targets, and even harassment campaigns in Santa Fe de Bogota.

The Prosecutor General's Office and Antioquia authorities are studying the communique explaining the emergence of the new group; they are trying to verify the authenticity of the communique, which is being used in the investigation into the murders of the three union leaders.

Internal Credit Restrictions Lifted

94P21058 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
24 Jul 94 p 6, 8B

[Text] The restrictions on internal credit which went into effect last March will be eliminated as of 1 August.

The Central Bank Board of Directors decided to discontinue the restrictions on loans in view of the fact that the 120 period established by law was close to running out, and because the measure did not produce the desired results.

The purpose of Resolution 6, which went into effect on 1 March 1994, was to slow the increase in credit from 50 to 37.5 percent annually, a level more compatible with the 19 percent goal for inflation and with the growth of the Colombian economy.

This objective was not achieved, however, in part because there were many ways of calculating this percentage, for example, loans which were approved but not paid out.

The banking and financial sector, which had even predicted that credit would be paralyzed, was not surprised by the announcement, since it had emphasized to monetary authorities on several occasions that the resolution, which limited the monthly increase in the portfolio to 2.2 percent, was inoperative.

The president of the National Association of Financial Institutions (ANIF), Javier Fernandez, said that "fortunately" the measure did not function because it would have had grave economic consequences. In the director's view, the Central Bank's decision was innocuous.

The president of the Banking Association (Asobancaria), Cesar Gonzalez, said on several occasions that the measure was unnecessary. He even sent a letter to the board in which he asked them to be more explicit about when the measure would be terminated.

The rate of growth of the financial portfolio did not decrease as much as expected. Rather, it maintained an average level of 47 percent annually.

In the last 15 days, however, the rate of growth of the portfolio is said to have decreased significantly, reaching 40 percent annually.

External Credit

The Central Bank decided to maintain the restriction on external credit, however, due to the avalanche of dollars which is expected to enter the country as a result of the unexpected coffee bonanza.

The codirector of the Central Bank, Hernando Jose Gomez, said that it is possible that the reimbursements from exports of coffee could increase by \$1.5 billion in 1995 which would mean income of between \$1.3 and more than \$2.5 billion through this means.

For this reason he emphasized the agreement reached between the coffee growers association and the incoming and outgoing finance ministers which provides for the appropriate management of the bonanza.

He viewed as positive the fact that some of those funds would remain in an account abroad because this would prevent a major revaluation. He also viewed positively the fact that part of the bonanza was earmarked to pay debts of the National Coffee Fund and coffee bonds (TAC's).

For those wishing to obtain credit abroad, the restrictions contained in Resolution 7, of 1994, will continue to apply.

Everything Under Control

The Central Bank codirector ruled out that "shock measures" would be applied in the near term as had been predicted by the financial system itself. "We have the situation under control. With a policy of monetary restriction and with the offering of stock certificates [titulos de participacion] I don't see any reason to adopt new measures," he said.

A Controlled Situation

The director said the monetary situation is under control and that the money supply (money in the hands of the public and in current accounts) is increasing at a rate of 29.5 percent, that is to say four points less than several months ago.

The decrease in the money supply is favorable because, in this way, there is less pressure on inflation.

The board expressed confidence that the inflation figure for the end of July, adjusted to reflect the annual figure, will be 22.5 percent, and in this way it will be easier to achieve the goal of 19 percent, especially with the smaller increase in food prices.

Paraguay

Government Backs Haitian Invasion; No Troops Offered

PY0508025594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1720 GMT
3 Aug 94

[Text] Asuncion, 3 Aug (EFE)—Paraguayan Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche stated today that the government of Asuncion supports a possible U.S. military intervention in Haiti, but will not send troops to that country.

"The government will respect the UN resolution and is awaiting the development of events in the hope that a resolution will be achieved at the diplomatic level, and not by force," Estigarribia said.

He added that Paraguay will not take part in the operation that the United States and other countries may carry out to remove the Haitian military, which three years ago overthrew President-elect Jean Bertrand Aristide.

The UN Security Council on 31 July authorized the invasion of Haiti to reestablish constitutional order, a decision that does not have the approval of some Latin American countries, such as Venezuela, Mexico, Uruguay, and Cuba.

Peru

'Emergency Cabinet Meeting' Held To Discuss Resignation

PY0408161494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1435 GMT
4 Aug 94

[Text] Lima, 4 Aug (EFE)—The local press reports today that President Alberto Fujimori has held an emergency cabinet meeting in view of Minister of the Presidency Raul Vittor's resignation, which has been accepted.

After the cabinet meeting, held on the evening of 3 August at Government House, the cabinet members left the site hurriedly without making any statement.

Three months ago, a Lima weekly charged that Vittor has business connections with Leonel Figueroa, former president of the Central Reserve Bank, who is at large today.

Before yesterday's cabinet meeting held at Government House, Fujimori stated that if there are any cabinet changes, they will be disclosed during the weekend.

Before his traditional independence day address to the nation on 28 July, there were rumors that three cabinet members would be changed. The name of the minister of the presidency was among those mentioned.

In fact, all cabinet members traditionally place their posts "at the disposal" of the president every 28 July and at the end of the year in case he wants to make some cabinet changes.

The other two ministers who will probably leave the cabinet are Justice Minister Fernando Vega Santa Gadea and Health Minister Jaime Freundt-Thurne.

Venezuela

Caracas Heads 'Desperate Attempt' To Avert Haiti Invasion

PA0408174294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1633 GMT
4 Aug 94

[Text] Caracas, 4 Aug (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Burelli Rivas has described Caracas' proposal to have a Latin American peace mission travel to Port-au-Prince to meet with coupist General Raoul Cedras as a "desperate attempt" to avoid a military invasion in Haiti.

The Venezuelan foreign minister today told foreign reporters that such a delegation has not yet been officially formed, but he refused to describe as a failure the initiative he proposed after the United Nations authorized the United States to restore democracy in the Caribbean country through all available means following Cedras' overthrow of constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991.

"Venezuela is trying to prevent a conflict from erupting; we are heading a desperate attempt in favor of peace," according to the minister, who said an invasion by the United States could have negative ramifications for U.S.-Latin American relations.

He said that if a visit is conducted by the delegation, whose members have not yet been named, it would leave New York on a Venezuelan plane with the ambassadors of the participating countries. Up until yesterday, diplomatic sources were mentioning the possible participation of Colombia, Brazil, and Mexico, with Argentina's possible participation still being debated.

According to Burelli, although it is not included on the agenda to be discussed by the Ibero-American and Rio Group foreign ministers, it is possible that the Haitian crisis will be reviewed late next week when the ministers gather in Santa Fe de Bogota to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of new Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano.

The foreign minister confirmed that yesterday in Caracas he unofficially learned that Cedras is willing to receive the peace mission, which Caracas analysts considered the start of a waiting period in advance of an imminent military invasion headed by the United States with the consent of the United Nations.

"Venezuela will not participate in an invasion of Port-au-Prince and will only cooperate by sending doctors, teachers, or policemen once peace and democracy is restored," he said.

According to Burelli, Venezuela's opposition to a military resolution of the Haitian crisis is in response to Caracas' political line, which has always opposed military intervention.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1655 GMT on 4 August transmits a related 500-word, Caracas-dated report by Marcel Roo, which cites Burelli saying that Venezuela has decided to make one last call on the Haitian military coup leaders "to leave in an effort to avert a bloodbath." In turn, Burelli says Venezuela is insisting on the creation of a high-level mission to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.]

Senate Commission Head Rejects Haiti Invasion

PA0508051294 Caracas *ECONOMIA HOY* in Spanish
4 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] Haydee Castillo, president of the Senate Foreign Policy Commission, has rejected the U.S.-announced invasion of Haiti and has ruled this invasion out as a means to reestablish democracy there.

"What Haiti needs, as the continent's weakest country, is financial and technical assistance, not an invasion," Castillo has said. She proposed the cooperation of the entire American continent, and even other latitudes, to deliver cooperation in areas such as health and education and especially to attenuate hunger.

"We do not believe an invasion, and the aftermath it leaves, is the way to help overcome the crisis," she has said.

She does not believe, however, Aristide's presence can cause a massacre. "The massacre is being caused by those who defied the people who had elected Aristide and delivered the coup d'etat. I do not believe democracy can only be reinstated by reinstating Aristide, but I am certain the coup d'etat against him was a mortal stab for that poor country."

Deputy German Monzon, president of the Deputies Permanent Foreign Policy Commission, has announced Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas has been invited to report to Congress on the latest events in connection with the Haiti case. Burelli's appearance is slated for 1630 on 9 August.

The Foreign Policy Commission unanimously approved an agreement in full support of the executive branch in its position against an armed invasion of Haiti.

"An invasion has a very high cost, and these resources could be used to develop Haiti. There is a special risk of losing many human lives, something we cannot tolerate.

Venezuela has to respect the sovereignty of sister countries. We cannot support an invasion of Haiti even though it has the approval of the UN Security Council," Deputy Monzon has said.

He has agreed with Castillo that Haiti does not need a war but, rather, a peace mission capable of placing her on the course of democracy and development, starting with literacy.

In this connection, Monzon has called on international organizations to lend Haiti a hand and cooperate with its development, always with the help of the Haitians themselves, because "their destiny is going to depend in the end on what they want to do with their people."

He ended by wishing success to a new effort before the international community to avoid an invasion of Haiti.

Border Posts on Alert Due to Colombian Situation

PA0508032994 Caracas *EL UNIVERSAL* in Spanish
4 Aug 94 p 1-10

[Text] According to Defense Minister General Rafael Montero Revette, all Venezuelan border military posts are on alert due to the Colombian border situation. This statement is what he announced yesterday during a ceremony to deliver vehicles to the National Guard at the Villa Zoila Garrison. He added Venezuelan border posts have not suffered any guerrilla attacks up to now.

He reported he had not had any reports up to yesterday morning on an attack against the Venezuelan area of La Guajira.

As far as the defense minister is concerned, military justice is not paralyzed by the mere fact that the new members of the War Council have not been sworn in, because the old members are still in their posts.

"I sent the Court Martial on 2 August the list of proposed candidates for the various war councils, and I hope they are officially appointed this week, followed by appointments to the country's remaining military tribunals," he said.

He was asked about cases of corruption, which are being handled by the military courts, and he replied "we are sending cases on problems of corruption to the FAN [National Armed Forces] Comptroller General and other cases directly to the courts."

Montero said the Armed Forces have been working these last few months to seek calm and stability in the country.

"With the suspension of constitutional guarantees, we have had the opportunity to continue investigating people who have concealed weapons and hoarded food in one way or another," he added.

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